your practical guide to beautiful living

home

SA's No.1 home and garden magazine

May 2017

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MAKEOVER

A cosy apartment perfect for work and play

GARDENS

Save water with artificial grass

DÉCOR

Work magic with mirrors

SUNDAY LUNCH

Mom's classics with a twist

WIN!
A KitchenAid mixer

Get creative!

Turn your own home into a décor masterpiece

INVENTIVE READERS SHOW US HOW

1 'I create my own wallpaper with paint'

2 'Nothing in my house is perfect – and I love it'

3 'Everything I own has a history!'

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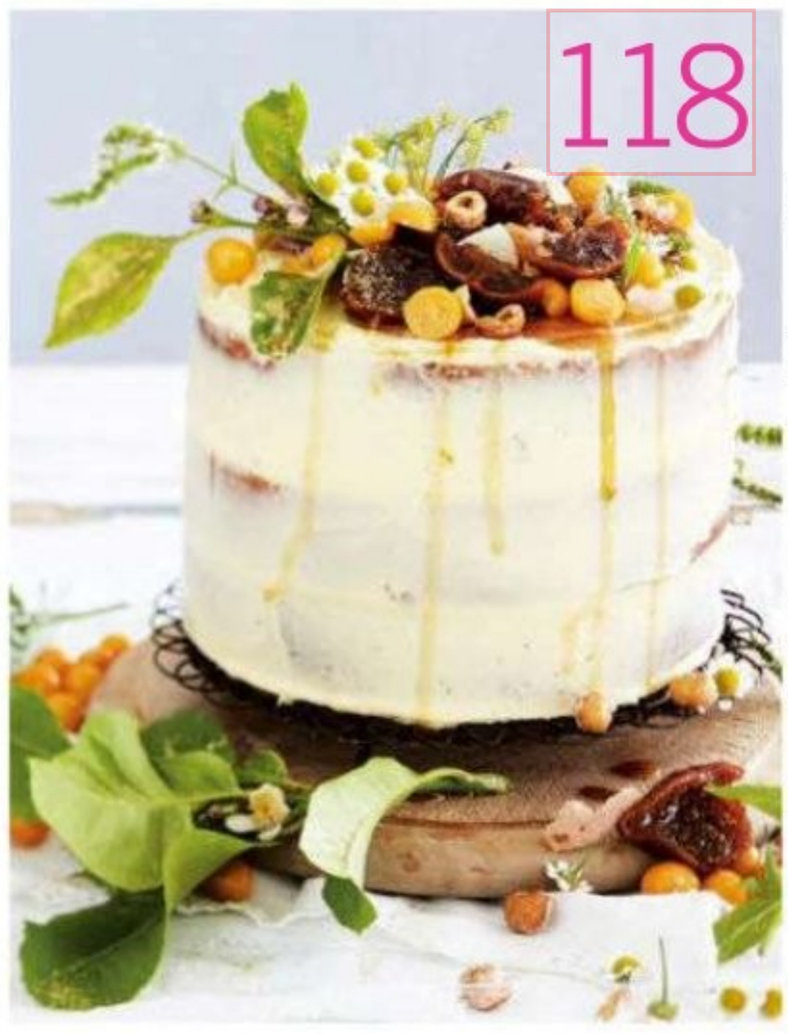












Cover photograph Francois Oberholster • *Styling* Marian van Wyk



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Hello



A few years ago, I viewed a property here in Cape Town. At the time, my hands were itching to do a renovation.

It was a corner property and the scene that unfolded as I got out of my car was like something from a sitcom. The agent was in a state. Clutching her handbag, she hurried me around the corner and with wide eyes whispered: "Listen, I need to warn you. These homeowners are creative and their son is *very* creative. We can chat afterwards, back here on the corner. But first, let's take a look..."

Next year, I will have been in journalism for 20 years and after many years spent telling some people's stories and reading others', I can confidently say that a statement like that is sure to spark my imagination – and I always expect the worst.

I wasn't disappointed.

The interior of this old Victorian home had already been carefully renovated with its white cement floors, an expensive kitchen that opened out onto a courtyard with built-in benches, and an extra bedroom in what used to be the basement that was so cleverly furnished it deserved to be photographed and shared with the world.

The homeowners were indeed creative. And yes, so was their son. Because everything was covered with the little guy's "art". Chalk, koki pen, pencil and ink everywhere: on the walls, the high-gloss doors on the new kitchen cupboards, the floors – even the mirrors in the bedrooms. The house was basically one big scribble that wouldn't likely wash off with soap and water. Brand new, but desperately in need of a makeover.

With difficulty, I suppressed my laughter; the agent's eyes would surely have popped out of their sockets if I'd dared to say something. Which, of course, meant I couldn't help myself.

"Hey, look!" I said. "Pictures everywhere. Who's the artist?"

The mother beamed, ready to relate the story behind each 'masterpiece'. She began to explain her parenting philosophy, the child tugging, pointing and crying throughout. (*PS* You can raise your kids any way you want, but don't expect me to like the free 'art' that comes with the deal.)

> We visit genuinely creative people – *readers who inspire us* and whose homes are so gorgeous, you'll want to try on their style.

The agent looked as if she was about to faint. I stood back and enjoyed the scene. Needless to say, the agent and I never made it to the corner after the viewing.

Way too creative, if you ask me.

In this issue, we visit other genuinely creative people – readers who inspire us and whose homes are so gorgeous, you'll want to try on their style. Some of them are store owners whose goodies we showcase regularly, others are experts whose homes brought a smile to our faces. I always say that if I finish reading a story and immediately feel impelled to call for a quote for my own home, then we've hit the nail on the head.

Let me just say that I've made three calls already...

Enjoy!

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home

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WINNING LETTER *A treasure trove of ideas*

Mrs C Tlaga of Benoni writes What a wonderful magazine, from the editor's letter to the back page by Riana. I've seen your magazine on the shelves before and have been tempted to buy it a few times. This morning, my son-in-law dropped me off at our local shopping centre so I could run a few errands and we arranged for him to collect me at noon.
I finished what I needed to do, with an hour to spare. So, I decided to treat myself to iced-coffee (something I haven't done in a while) and I needed something to browse through...

I'm 70 years young, my husband of 42 years died over a year ago and my daughter and her two children live with me. One of these days, she'll go to live on her own and I'll need to downsize – and your magazine is a treasure trove of ideas!

To all the editorial staff: congratulations on a wonderful magazine; it will be on my shopping list every month now.

PS My daughter is typing this for me on her computer as I'm a bit 'technologically challenged'; my cellphone is still the old type – no swiping finger on the screen. As long as I can receive and send SMSes and calls, I'm happy!



Magical miracle plant

Marie du Plooy of Bloemfontein writes Thanks for the information on spekboom in 'Plant of the month'. According to my late father, spekboom also deters ants and termites, and bees love the flowers and produce good honey from it.

People have been planting spekboom as hedges for ages – the first stock farmers used it to make kraal fences. I hope this miracle plant will be utilised by everyone wishing for a greener environment; spekboom has exceptional carbon-storing capabilities for turning back the tide of global warming.

So buy a spekboom or just break off a piece and plant it in a pot. Yes, we can make a positive difference to climate change through such a small intervention.

Wisdom in wine boxes *Elly Grossman of Cannon Rocks writes*

Ludwig, you are brilliant! I've always lined my planting holes with a layer of newspaper but the winds in the Eastern Cape play havoc with the carefully arranged sheets. As chance would have it, I bought the March issue of *Home* in the midst of a transplanting frenzy, and your advice was spot on (see page 107). The only suitable cardboard box available was an empty wine box, which I used to follow your suggestion. Standing back to admire the transplanted shrub, I mulled over the fortuitousness of wine bottles being packed in ideal-sized boxes. If friends raise eyebrows when told that wine-drinking is essential for successful transplanting, I can reply: "Ludwig says so!" Who is going to contradict Ludwig? Hic!



Ludwig's rose corner

Rose guru Ludwig Taschner offers advice on how to evaluate the performance of your roses and when to replace them.

'Thank You'

Q: I have removed some of my old roses and would like to plant new varieties such as 'Thank You' and 'Happy Home' in their place. Must I sterilise the soil?

If you remove a rose that has been growing for longer than five years, the soil needs to be changed. Sterilising is a complicated process; it's much easier to dig a large hole, put a cardboard box filled with good quality potting soil or a mix of garden soil and potting soil in it, and plant the new rose. By the time the cardboard has disintegrated, the growth inhibitors emitted by the old rose will have gone and the new rose will thrive.

IN SHORT



I was inspired to do something creative with this mandala which I found in your *Paint it!* 2016 – none of the sides are the same!

– Elna Tomlinson, Pretoria



Thanks to DIY Deon for all his brilliant projects! Here are some photos of floating shelves I made for our stoep after reading the article about Deon's 1970s bathroom revamp in *Home* a few months ago.

– Kenny B Uzzell

The editor reserves the right to edit letters at his discretion.

WIN! The writer of the winning letter gets a Robertson Winery hamper worth R1 500!

Robertson Winery Lightly Sparkling Sauvignon Blanc and Lightly Sparkling Pinot Noir Rosé will kick off any celebration. "Innervigorating" is how they describe this delicious range with its added dazzle of tiny bubbles. The RW Lightly Sparkling Sauvignon Blanc is crisp and refreshing with flavours of passion fruit and melon, while the RW Lightly Sparkling Pinot Noir Rosé is delicate with hints of strawberry and watermelon. Go to **robertsonwinery.co.za** and follow them on Facebook and Twitter to share all your favourite RW moments.



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Enjoy Responsibly. Not for Sale to Persons Under the Age of 18.

diary



Compiled by Johané Neilson

Send diary entries to diary@homemag.co.za at least three months before the event.

ON THE BOX

Watch as three judges, all experts on a different aspect of architecture and design, narrow down the finalists for *Home of the Year* (Season 1 starts 15 May on the Home Channel, 176 on DStv). From huge farmhouses to town apartments, centuries-old villas to cutting-edge modern architectural masterpieces, there's something for everyone. Check it out!





Design Joburg

12–14 May: Sandton Convention Centre

Come May 2017, the Sandton Convention Centre will be transformed into SA's most inspiring design destination. Design Joburg, featuring Rooms on View, will bring together the very best décor brands and personalities from around the world! Tickets cost R110 at webtickets.co.za; go to **designjoburg.com**.

WIN! Fifteen lucky readers can each win double tickets to Design Joburg: simply SMS 'DESIGN', your name and email address to 33406 (each SMS costs R1.50). Entries close on 5 May 2017; see our competition rules on page 128.

Kamers/Makers

24–28 May: Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town

Kamers/Makers returns to the historic Castle of Good Hope for the third time and, as always, visitors can expect lots of locally crafted wares, delicious food and wine, and much more! Tickets cost R60 at plankton.mobi; visit **kamersvol.com**.





From **25–27 May**, the **TOPS at SPAR Wine Show** is back in Johanessburg, and for the first time at Montecasino, to present its 12th spectacular "pourformance" of SA's most loved wines and bubbly. Get tickets from R120 at ticketpros.co.za or at the door.

Winter Wednesdays

'Wine' down and relax with live music by popular acoustic guitarists at the Neethlingshof Wine Tasting Centre in Stellenbosch every Wednesday evening from 17:30–20:30 until 27 September. Entry is free but booking is advisable; call 021 883 8988.

MAY FLASHES

1: Workers' Day

1–6: Visit the Nederduitsch Hervormde church in **Witbank** for a gift market offering crafts, décor and yummy food; call 082 512 9849.

7: Shop, sip a cocktail and enjoy fabulous fare on the first Sunday of every month at the Ngwenya Country Market at the Ngwenya Glass Village in **Muldersdrift**; call 082 497 6054.

12–14: Experience the colourful changing of the seasons at the Hogsback Autumn Celebration in **Hogsback Village** in the Eastern Cape. Expect cooking demos with organic veggies, guided garden tours, talks, kids' activities and lots more; call 082 787 0927.



13: Relax in the beautiful gardens at Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel in **Centurion** and make the most of GinFest 2017. Tickets cost R150 at iTickets.co.za; call 012 654 9878.

13–14: The East Rand Orchid Society hosts the Autumn Show at **Edenvale** Community Centre (cnr Van Riebeeck Ave and Second Street) from 10:00–16:00. Don't miss the orchid care demos at 11:00 and 14:00. Entrance is R15; call 011 453 6888.

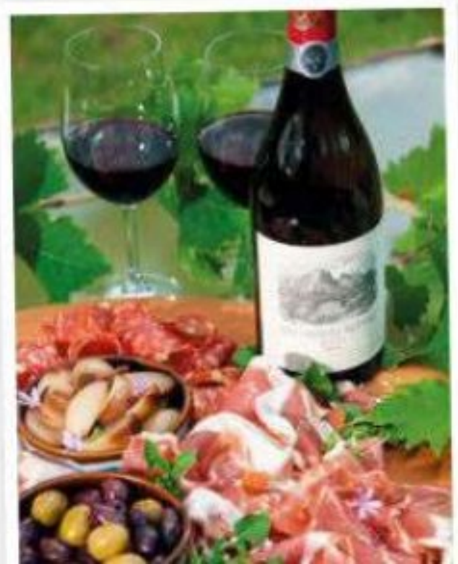
14: Happy Mother's Day!

26–27: Lumiére Primary School on the corner of Elandsberg and Wolwekop Street in **Sasolburg** hosts a craft and vintage market with more than 130 stalls. Go to **kothuismark.co.za**.



26–28: Enjoy a 'Field to Fork' experience including live demos and food-and-wine pairings at the Fire & Feast Butcher's Festival at the Ticketpro Dome in **Jo'burg**. Tickets cost R100; visit **fireandfeast.co.za**.





27: Sample some of SA's finest Shiraz & Charcuterie at Anthonij Rupert Wines in **Franschhoek**. Tickets from webtickets.co.za cost R220; call 084 207 3820.



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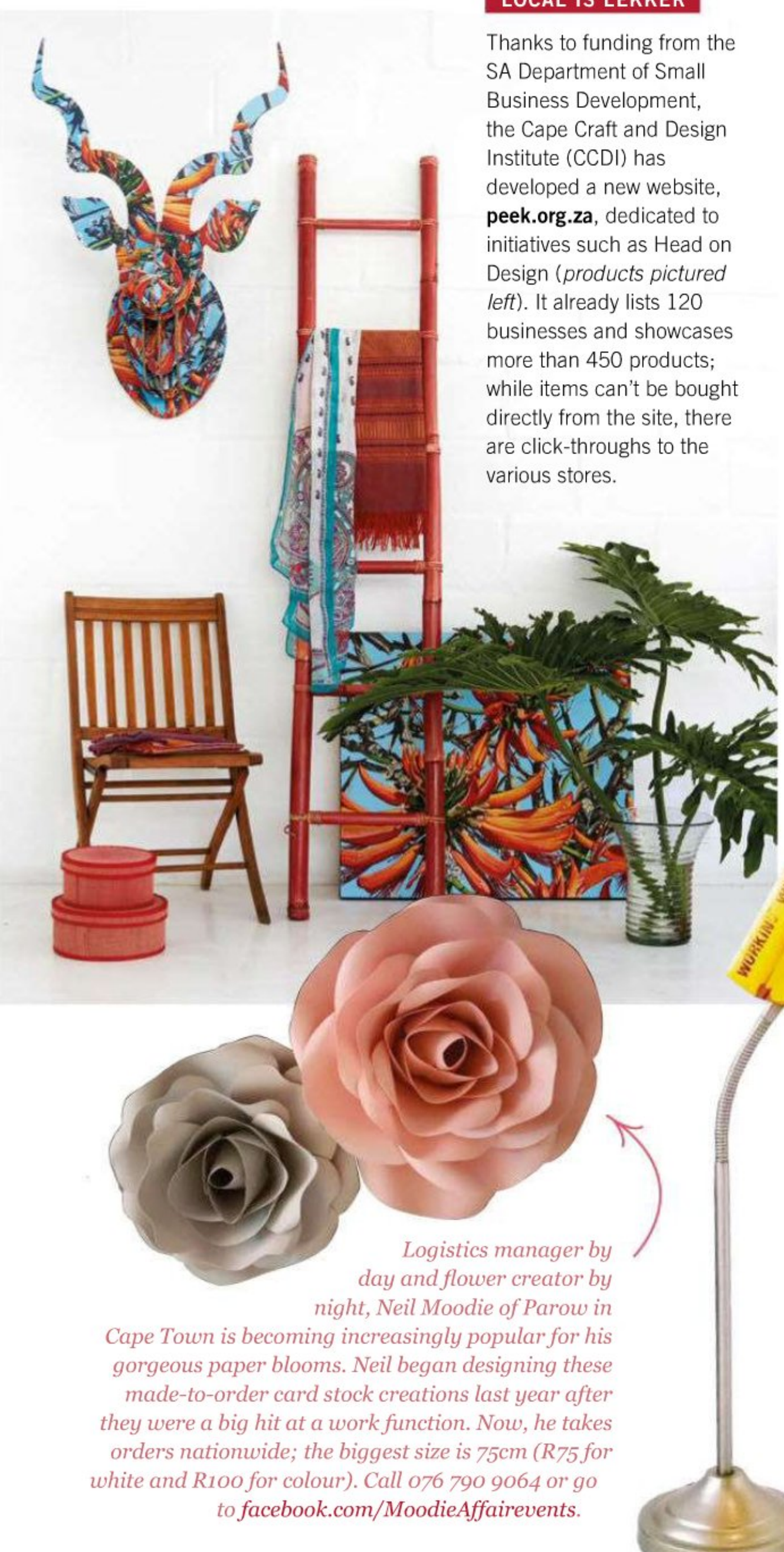
Please send décor and lifestyle news to news@homemag.co.za.

what's new

Compiled by Kim Arendse

LOCAL IS LEKKER

Thanks to funding from the SA Department of Small Business Development, the Cape Craft and Design Institute (CCDI) has developed a new website, **peek.org.za**, dedicated to initiatives such as Head on Design (*products pictured left*). It already lists 120 businesses and showcases more than 450 products; while items can't be bought directly from the site, there are click-throughs to the various stores.



Logistics manager by day and flower creator by night, Neil Moodie of Parow in Cape Town is becoming increasingly popular for his gorgeous paper blooms. Neil began designing these made-to-order card stock creations last year after they were a big hit at a work function. Now, he takes orders nationwide; the biggest size is 75cm (R75 for white and R100 for colour). Call 076 790 9064 or go to facebook.com/MoodieAffairevents.



Must have!

How awesome are these shweshwe kitties (from 33cm at R295) made by Pretoria artist Ann van Jaarsveld? Each one is unique with its own hand-painted face and special name chosen either by Ann or the prospective client. Take a look at **facebook.com/catsbyann**.





WATCH THIS SPACE!

BUSINESS Lilly Loompa Furniture
WHO Lizl Naude
WHERE Wellington, Cape Town

HER WORK Former interior designer Lizl Naude was inspired to create her business after struggling to find affordable "ecofriendly" décor items for her home. So she began making furniture herself, using budget materials and repurposed "junk"; soon enough, she had a fan base. Now Lizl makes everything from lighting, artworks and wall clocks to tables and other furniture pieces. For more details, go to **lillyloompa.com** or purchase her products on **madeineverywhere.co.za**.





HOT PRODUCTS

If you prefer soft neutrals to bold brights, you'll love the muted tones and refined geometric designs of Geonature, the latest wallpaper collection from Eijffinger. It's available through Dreamweaver Studios at R1 550 for a 10m x 52cm roll; for more details, go to **dreamweaverstudios.co.za**.



Get ready for winter with the stainless steel Spartan Boxx heated towel rail from Jeeves (R4 900). Its simple rectangular frame combines form and function and, best of all, electricity consumption is the equivalent of just one light bulb! For details, visit jeeves.co.za**.**

We're fans of Fragranite sinks with their promise to reduce bacteria growth by 99%! Plus they are gorgeous; just look at this black Franke Maris undermount double sink (from R5 515) from Italtile. They are also resistant to burns, dents, chips and stains. For details, go to **italtile.co.za**.



FINE FABRICS

We're all doing our bit to be more waterwise – and we're getting to know our succulents better in the process! That's why we love this new design, Scrumptious Fest from Soya Dekor (R385/m; 138 W); it's available in three colours: (*top to bottom*) Chile on Maison Blanche, Black on White and Lily on Blue. Check out **soyadekor.co.za**.



TOP SHOP

Contemporary design store Amiti at 81 Long Street in the Cape Town CBD stocks a variety of work from designers and small business owners in the lifestyle industry. Décor items include ceramics, wooden products, soft furnishings, prints, wall-mounts and more. "Derived from the English word 'amity', Amiti means friendship and peaceful relations – and that's what we're all about," says owner Julie Gardiner. Go shopping at amitishop.co.za.



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SET THE TABLE *for Mom*

Use what you have – and love – to create something spectacular for Mother's Day.

By **Shelly Bergh** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**

It's in the detail

A pretty teacup filled with macaroons and wrapped in a ribbon makes a lovely gift.

Sweet 'n sentimental

Nothing says "I love you" quite like a beautiful bunch of flowers, so why not use various floral motifs in your table setting too? Combine beautiful mismatched crockery stacked together, a vintage-style placemat underneath an heirloom teacup from Granny – all laid out on a gorgeous embroidered tablecloth. Add flowers from your garden for the ultimate floral fantasy! >>

Rose gold cutlery from @home

Bright idea!

Add a special touch and bring back happy memories by making Mom a card using an old photograph.

In touch with nature

If Mom is more of a nature-lover than a collector, create your setting on a bare wooden table with earthy ceramic crockery. Add a feminine touch with coloured glasses, paper doilies used as coasters and a decorative napkin-holder – use a wooden peg to attach the doily.







HOW TO

Make a decorative ball filled with succulents:

You will need

- Formica edging
- scissors
- hole punch
- 2 split pins
- florist's oasis

1 Cut eight 15cm strips from the Formica edging.
2 Punch a hole at both ends of each strip.
3 Place the strips on top of each other and insert the split pins through the holes on the strips, opening the pins to secure them in place.
4 Add a block of florist's oasis, then fan the strips out to form a ball shape.
5 Now fill it with flowers and foliage from your herb garden.

Bright idea!

Big leaves, such as those of a delicious monster, are a major design trend right now – use one as a placemat for extra texture.

Glasses, bowl, side plate and napkin from @home; cutlery and dinner plate from Woolworths

STOCKISTS
@home 0860 576 576, home.co.za
Woolworths 0860 022 002, woolworths.co.za

For you, Mom

Make her day with one of these fabulous finds...

By Kim Arendse



Hours of fun

Colouring-in book R295, alovesupreme.co.za

Stylish storage

Nesting baskets (set of three) R690, pilgrimagespaces.co.za





If she loves chocolate...

Best Mom Ever Lindt treasure box R499.95, netflorist.co.za

Blooming beauty

Mini orchid R189.99, Woolworths







Good enough to eat

Large Florence bowls R86 each, Biggie Best



Fill it up

Fleur jug (25cm tall) R349, Volpes



Take a stand

Amelia cake stand R199.99, MRP Home

For a soft touch

1 Sparrow Joy scatter (60 x 60cm) R229, Volpes

2 Foxglove scatter (50 x 50cm) R289, Biggie Best

3 Peony scatter (50 x 50cm) R289, Biggie Best

4 Argo House delicious monster scatter cover (60 x 60cm; inner sold separately) R695, Block & Chisel







Cover up

Safari sunset dish covers (set of 4) R365, spazastore.com



Love 'n light

Antique brass bullet pendant R540 and heart filament bulb R217, both K. Light



Set the table

Tablecloths (from 150 x 220cm) R599.99, articleandattire.co.za



Top brass

Brass tray (40 x 30cm) R499, Poetry



Warm as toast

Chunky lattice throw (150 x 180cm) R699, Woolworths







Feeling blue

Ceramic coaster with gold rim R65, Poetry

Come on in...

Floral doorknob R40, Poetry

STOCKISTS Biggie Best 011 465 1117, biggiebestwebshop.co.za **Block & Chisel** 021 691 0878, blockandchisel.co.za
K. Light 021 552 4370, klight.co.za **MRP Home** 0800 212 535, mrphome.com **Poetry** 0860 555 529, poetrystores.co.za
Volpes 041 402 6800, volpes.co.za **Woolworths** 0860 022 002, woolworths.co.za

LIFE'S TOO **short**

Homeowners Gerhardt Oosthuizen and Kosie Nagel are full of fun – and, unsurprisingly, so is their vibrant home (and décor store!).

By **Frieda le Roux** • *Photographs* **Elza Cooper** • *Styling* **Amanda van Wyngaardt**

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The gallery on the living room wall is evidence of Kosie and Gerhardt's many adventures. "We were lucky enough to travel extensively while Kosie worked in the travel industry," says Gerhardt. "We have seen the world! These days, we're exploring South Africa; our favourite towns include Prince Albert and Nieu-Bethesda – each has its own charm and unique creative vibe."

Floors treated with Dulux Trade Hi-Chem Epoxy Enamel; walls painted in Plascon Baby Elephant

Who lives here?
Gerhardt Oosthuizen and Kosie Nagel
WHERE Fourways, Johannesburg
SIZE 366m²

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It's hard to believe that Gerhardt and Kosie's house was once so badly neglected that it didn't even have a front door when they bought it.



Gerhardt *(left)* and Kosie.



The pair like to use plants to bring a touch of nature indoors; they're particularly fond of air plants, cacti and succulents. The old man's beard in the upside-down pots needs no water, although it prefers a spot with high humidity, such as a bathroom. It's simply suspended from a hook inside the pot; these are available from their shop.



Gerhardt and Kosie love spending time on their stoep, which they regard as an integral part of their home – who would've guessed the table was a picket fence in its previous life?

Gonk in Linden, Johannesburg is so much more than just a place of work for its co-owners. Gerhardt Oosthuizen and Kosie Nagel regard this treasure chest of gorgeous décor items as a dream come true – as is their beautiful home which embodies everything that brings them joy.

"When we bought this house six years ago, it had been standing empty for a year and a half," says Gerhardt. "The grass was long and the swimming pool was green and full of frogs. The tiles had been chopped out and lay in heaps on the floor. We didn't even get keys to the house because there was no door that could be locked!"

After months of demolishing and constructing, the pair were able to settle into their new abode – not that this stopped them from making changes on a regular basis. "Thanks to our store, we have access to the most amazing things. There's always something new for us to bring home," says Gerhardt. "I'm a member of 'Scatter Cushion Anonymous' – I find it difficult to walk past a pretty cushion!"

For this reason, Gerhardt and Kosie have largely opted for a neutral palette as this allows them to make décor changes without it costing an arm and a leg.

"The neutral walls and floors and natural-fibre curtains make it an accommodating palette. It doesn't take much effort to add or remove colour with focal pieces." >>

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It's in their blood

The name of the shop is a combination of Gerhardt and Kosie's initials and is symbolic of their personal commitment. What you see in the store, you will also find in their home. "We will never stock anything in the store that we wouldn't be happy to use in our home. Our brand is an integral part of us; it's what we are all about. It's impossible to separate our passion from who we are!" says Gerhardt. He has a background in art and has worked in the décor and design world for many years.

Kosie, on the other hand, started in the hospitality industry and later worked in the travel industry – which meant that they were able to travel a lot. Visits abroad, combined with a weekend in February 2015 when they helped a friend in Clarens set up her shop, prompted them to pursue their dream: "A store in which we could share our passion for décor, gifts and beautiful things with everyone," says Kosie. "We are very ordinary but very creative people. We're always working on a project here or looking for inspiration there. It's in our blood to search for and collect beautiful things – from furniture to birdhouses." >>

The kitchen is Kosie's favourite space. The small cupboard next to the blue one in the dining area has its own story: years ago, Gerhardt secretly loaded it into the boot of his Tazz and smuggled it into the house. "Kosie has threatened me with death if I buy more furniture," says Gerhardt.

Kitchen countertops from Ceasarstone; kitchen cabinets by Easy Life Kitchens; wallpaper from Chamdor Faktry Sales' Silkhouse Kinedit and Eclips range



A colourful collection of birdhouses adorns the stoep wall. Gerhardt spotted two at a friend's home and immediately started his own collection. "We like to buy cute little houses and decorate them with paint or podge – or whatever!"

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Gerhardt firmly believes that beautiful things shouldn't be hidden in cupboards – most of the surfaces in their home are used to display all kinds of eclectic finds; he changes the displays as the mood takes him.

The wooden sunbirds and mushrooms come from the heart of Africa and can be purchased at Gonk; they are hand-carved from sustainable timber and moss provides a bit of greenery.

Gerhardt spray-painted the hooks rose gold. The tea towels come from all over and are replaced when they no longer look good. >>

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The display cupboards in the guest room *(above centre)* **come from Grand Hotel Antiques, one of the couple's favourite antique stores in Albertsville, Johannesburg. "Zic, the owner, is an eccentric character who always wears a stylish fedora," says Gerhardt. "The two cupboards had just been sanded and I rescued them before they were to be given an awful coat of furniture oil."**

The strong visual impact of the unusual headboard in the main bedroom *(above right; left)* **complements the double-volume space. Because the bed is an extra-long king size, it was important to keep everything in scale, so the bedside tables are actually small TV cabinets but they work perfectly with the rest of the oversized furniture.**



Walls painted in Earthcote's Sand Paint in the colour Dung Beetle Brown



The main bedroom features a focal wall comprised of chains in different lengths, which creates the illusion of a headboard.

Never bland or boring

For Gerhardt and Kosie, every piece of furniture is special, often with its own story. Some pieces were inherited, others came from antique stores or were picked up at demolition sites for a song.

"The tea chest in the living room cost us a mere R400. We often find furniture at a good price but it might be upholstered in some strange fabric; we simply reupholster it in something more socially acceptable," says Gerhardt.

The inventive couple often spots potential that others might miss. In one of the guest rooms (*above left*), a window frame from the original Pretoria Hotel serves as a headboard. Gerhardt and Kosie snapped it up at Independent Traders Unlimited and attached it to the wall with metal reinforcements. And in the main bedroom, the headboard consists of chains in different lengths and thicknesses; Gerhardt designed and installed it while Kosie was away at a conference "so that it would be too late for him to object".

Currently, a guest bedroom with a Mexican theme is keeping their creative juices flowing. It all began with a bright red beaded chandelier they discovered at a Weylandts sale. "We wanted to combine the Mexican influence with the tropical style that is so on trend right now," explains Kosie.

Other collectables were added later, such as the images of the Virgin Mary in true Mexican style. "The aesthetic is loosely inspired by the artist Penny Siopis and the Durban décor store Shoppe," says Gerhardt. " I got the Virgin Mary figurine from my mother. I was worried she would disown me because I gave it a lick of paint but when she saw it, she gave hers the same treatment!" he chuckles.

For these two, life is too short not to make a splash! >>

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Kosie and I painted the wall together – *it was a long process* with a stunning outcome. – *Gerhardt*

Gerhardt started hand-painting wallpaper in early 2000 while working with one of his previous employers.

Chandelier and table from Weylandts



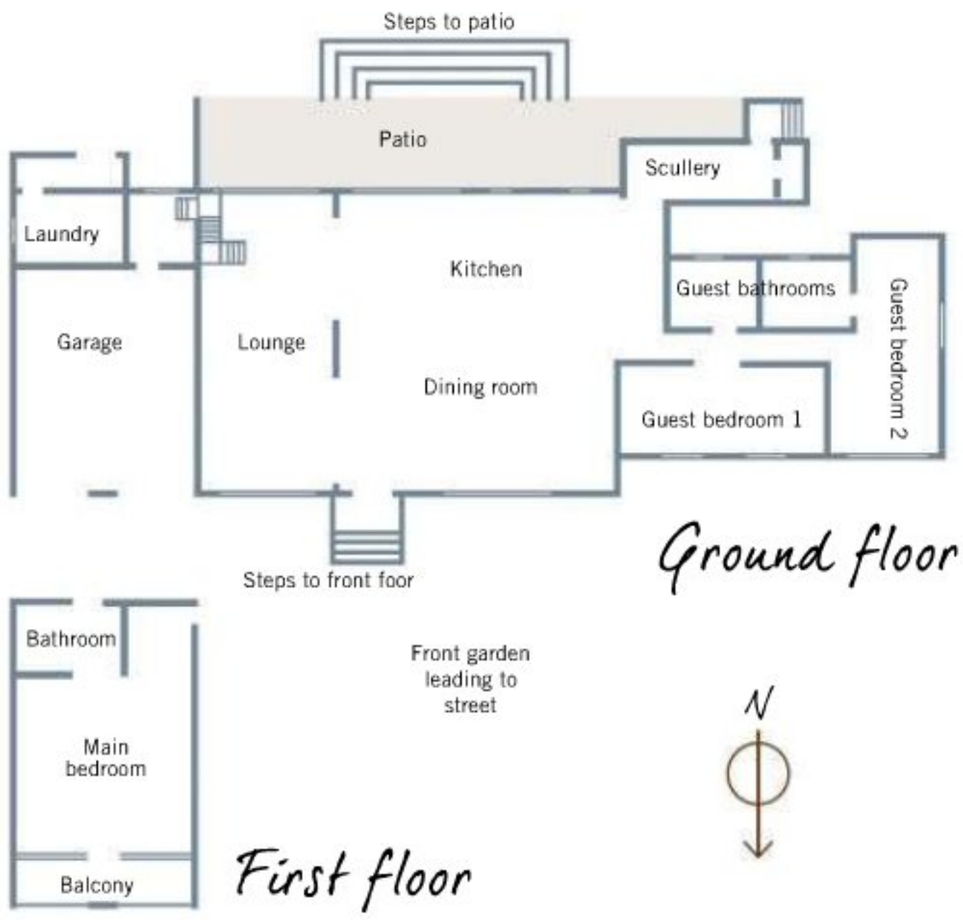
The striking timber-framed mirror in one of the guest bathrooms was a holiday buy in Mauritius.



The wood, wallpaper and paint in the en-suite bathroom add warmth and texture. The steam in the bathroom provides more than enough moisture for the cactus in the jug.



The focal wall with its "Afro-Mexican" theme is Gerhardt and Kosie's latest work-in-progress; most of the décor items are from Hadeda.



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Grand Hotel Antiques 011 673 2345
Hadeda 011 880 8021, hadedashop.com
Independent Traders Unlimited 011 026 0235, independent-traders.co.za
Shoppe 083 626 6088
Weylandts 0860 103 400, weylandts.co.za

Kundra uses tiles she loves to create her own patterns, as she's done here in the stunning courtyard water feature. An engraved brass tap adds an opulent touch.

FROM Morocco WITH LOVE

A passion for the vibrant tones and textures of this North African country has inspired the alluring look and feel of what once was a run-down Victorian cottage.

By **Kim Arendse** • *Photographs* **Gareth Hubbard**
Styling **Shelly Bergh**

Who lives here?
Kundra Bowley
WHERE Cape Town
SIZE 101m²

A typical Moroccan table with an intricate mosaic top and cane chairs painted a striking blue-green anchor the dining area in the open-plan living space. "I don't think I've ever seen a tablecloth used in Morocco," Kundra says. "Simply because the tables are so beautifully made and also because importance is placed on the company and enjoyment of a meal rather than setting the table perfectly."

The ceilings in the living area *(left)* are covered in grass mats traditionally used against walls in Moroccan homes to keep the intense summer heat at bay. The large pendant lamp is made of stretched goat's skin.

Elaborately engraved plaster of Paris strips – typically used to decorate walls, ceilings, window frames and doorways in Morocco – surround the front door *(far right)*; Kundra applied them using cement and painted them white.

I believe one is *never finished* with a house; it has to keep growing. – *Kundra*





Double doors *(above)* lead to the front courtyard and splash pool.

In true Moroccan style, small tables, including a bread table used by bread-sellers in the old city to carry and sell their wares and a pouffe covered in metallic fabric *(right)*, work together to create an interesting and practical centrepiece.





At the poolside in the front courtyard, white fibreglass Art Deco chairs from Marrakesh add a contemporary touch.



A long-standing love affair with the markets and alleyways of mystical Morocco, and its expression in her popular Cape Town store Moroccan Warehouse, have made Kundra Bowley the go-to girl for exotic décor lovingly sourced from Marrakesh.

It's little wonder her home, a century-old cottage in Tamboerskloof on the slopes of Lion's Head, is also an enchanting reflection of this creative relationship.

The moment you arrive at Kundra's house, these days an AirBnb rental, you feel utterly transported – from the studded front door framed with engraved white plaster of Paris strips to the beautiful back courtyard, an oasis of vibrant blue tiles; a gorgeous, flowing fountain; bountiful bougainvillea and an olive tree.

"Nothing in my house is perfect," Kundra says. "And nothing is expensive. I love that kind of beauty."

The inside of the house was once dark and poky but Kundra opened up the small space with glass doors that lead from the bedrooms and living area to the two outside areas: there's a backyard with a view of Table Mountain and a front courtyard with a splash pool overlooking the CBD – all perfectly complementing the Moroccan vibe she has created inside.

Bringing work home

The furniture and finishes in her home all seem to be thrown together effortlessly. "My décor style is humble; I simply fill the spaces with the items I love," Kundra explains.

And what she loves, other people do too. So much so that visitors often comment on items they come across in her home and Kundra is more than happy to sell them on the spot.

"It gives me such a kick when someone loves something I've brought back from the country I love so much. The good thing is that there are always new items coming in, thanks to my shop."

The warm, rich colours of the furniture, lush rugs, tiled focal walls and trinkets stand out beautifully against the nude tone of the screeded and waxed walls, a calming colour reminiscent of a desert landscape.

"When it comes to décor, there are two Moroccan styles," Kundra explains. "There's the grander opulent gold, copper and dark wood of modern urban Morocco and then there's the more rustic handiwork of the native Berbers that you can find in the markets or *souks*. They're the ones who make the so-called "imperfect" items I love: the cane chairs; stools with carved, tapered wooden legs; mosaic-topped tables; goatskin lampshades; rugs and kitchenware. What I love is that there's almost always a story attached to the item or the design – and that makes it so special."

A journey...

Kundra's love of Moroccan architecture and décor, which led to opening her store 25 years ago, began with a fortuitous fashion shoot in France. Back in the day, Kundra was a fashion stylist and the French photographer she was working with suggested a quick shoot in Morocco, just a two-hour flight away.

"So off we went; it was the middle of summer and 55°C! Just before leaving, I realised I didn't have anything to take back home with me to remind me of this beautiful place. So I rushed off to the nearest *souk* and bought six small bowls before racing back to the bus that took us to the airport. I knew I would be back."

Mesmerised by Moroccan style, Kundra's dream was to introduce these interesting, authentic crafts to everyone back home; she decided to import a shipment of Moroccan ware and sold the lot from a friend's double garage within a matter of hours! There and then, she knew she had a successful business in her future.

While she now has an agent based in Marrakesh, some things never change: every year, Kundra visits to source items herself. She heads into the dusty streets on the back of her agent's trusty scooter to find those gems, bartering in broken French and Arabic to bring back the items she adores. >>

A *handira*, a blanket woven from wool, cotton and linen and embellished with hundreds of mirrored sequins, adds a soft touch in the bedroom leading onto the back courtyard. *Handiras* are traditionally made by a groom's parents for the bride before their wedding.

Outside, a large olive tree shades the courtyard; the rustic floor consists of beach pebbles mixed with cement.

Floor plan



A built-in bench covered in a variety of Moroccan tiles creates a striking focal point in the courtyard; Kundra gave old deck chairs a fresh new look with a lick of paint. >>

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Kundra opted for grey screed walls and black and white tiles in the bathrooms to create a tranquil atmosphere. Stainless steel taps and an old mirror frame that she stained black stand out against the cool walls.

The doors inside the house were framed with the same plaster of Paris strips as the front door. The floors throughout the house have been treated with Midas Earthcote Pigmented Floorcote in Green Cement.

The walls were screeded with Earthcote Pandomo in the colour Amaglass. "I love the imperfect look and sense of movement in screeded walls," Kundra says.

In one of the bedrooms, an old wash room has been converted into a walk-in closet closed behind an intricately painted Moroccan double door. The old mannequin, which Kundra used when she was a fashion stylist, was added as a quirky décor element.

In the main bedroom, a ledge offers shelving space for artwork and beloved treasures; the section of wall below it was tiled and doubles up as a 'headboard'. "If you look closely, you'll see that no two tiles are the same – they were all handmade in the back streets of Morocco," Kundra explains.

STOCKIST
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SUBURBAN bliss

An old Georgian home turned out to be the perfect blank canvas for an inspired stationery designer.

By **Kim Arendse** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**
Styling **Marian van Wyk**

Who lives here?
Bridget and Bruce Richardson with their kids Emma (14) and Michael (12), dogs Bruno and Barley, and Tigger the cat
WHERE Kenilworth, Cape Town
SIZE 500m²

Most of the furniture in our house has *at some point belonged to someone else*, and I love that history.
– Bridget

Paintable wallpaper was added to the lower half of the wall in this passageway leading to the kitchen to add texture, while old shutters have been repurposed to form part of the gallery on the wall.
Desk (*opposite*) from Gumtree

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In the Richardson house, if you stand still for long enough, chances are you'll get painted! This is a running joke between Bruce and his wife Bridget, owner of online store Love Letters Stationery – and a dedicated décor fanatic.

"It's true," laughs Bridget. "Rooms get transformed in a weekend if I have the energy!"

Bridget started her business nine years ago when she was looking for a special gift for a friend who loves writing letters. "I couldn't find a personalised set of cards in South Africa and realised there was a gap in the market for affordable, good-quality stationery," she says.

But Bridget's creativity doesn't stop there. When she's not working from her home office – a charming corrugated "garden shed" in the backyard – she can be found painting a junkyard find, rearranging furniture or hanging pictures.

Her handiwork has turned their house into a stylish family home. The palette is subtle with just the right accents throughout, including interesting antiques, surprisingly affordable junk shop finds, heirlooms and various DIY projects.

"While the décor in our home changes quite a bit, I don't buy lots of new things," Bridget says. "I repurpose, redo and move things around." >>

We love this!
Bridget made the pendants using pewter bowls – so creative!

The black shelving unit next to the island is a repurposed bathroom vanity. "We no longer needed it and it seemed a waste to get rid of it, so we used it to increase the surface area in the kitchen," Bridget says.

This corner of the lounge, which is just off the kitchen, was transformed into a study nook. The desk was a Gumtree find, while the quirky oversized measuring tape behind the desk was bought at Cash Converters for just R100. The gallery above the desk was created using images Bridget found online and silver antique-style frames from Pick n Pay.

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Plenty of space

The Richardsons bought their home five years ago – they wanted to be closer to the kids' schools and they were after an older home that had plenty of space for entertaining.

"We used to live in a security estate and desperately wanted something with character," Bridget explains.

When they found this house, she and Bruce fell in love with its architectural detail, arched doorways, high ceilings, Oregon pine floors and, of course, the corrugated-iron cottage from which Bridget and her two assistants run the business.

"I think we're really lucky to have found a house that also has enough space for my business; it's perfect, although Love Letters Stationery is already beginning to outgrow it!" Bridget says with a laugh.

And befitting a creative mastermind, the house is full of surprises and clever décor ideas from unique DIY artworks to old wicker lampshades used as wall décor – and it's all so stylishly executed, you would never have guessed...>>

A print of the world map in the dining area was designed and created by Love Letters Stationery. "When we're stuck for what to make for dinner, we pick a country on the map and find a recipe for a classic dish that originates there," Bridget says.

Pendant from Weylandts, black-and-white floor tiles from KBAC Flooring, table inherited from Bruce's grandmother, chairs found on Gumtree

Great idea!

Who says a ceiling should be white? Here, the walls are white and the ceiling grey.

The bookshelf wallpaper *(left)* from Builders looks surprisingly real in the stately dining room. Bridget made the artwork above the fireplace with a sheet of glass and mirror spray paint.





A bright green cabinet, painted in Annie Sloan Antibes, was rescued from a house that was being demolished. It creates a striking focal point at the end of the otherwise neutral hallway.

There's "a lot going on" in the lounge, so Bridget decided to keep the palette neutral with touches of white, grey and wood. The walls were painted with Prominent Paint's Peninsula.

The freestanding bath was situated in the main bedroom when the family moved in; Bridget and Bruce recently extended the en suite to include an alcove where the bath is now positioned.



Bridget designed the Meranti vanity and had it custom made; the mirror above was discovered in a junk shop. A large wicker tray under the vanity and a butler tray offer additional storage space.

Vanity handles from Handles Inc., rug from H&M Home



The main bedroom is situated upstairs. "It's an easy room to update – and I do so regularly." Bridget says. "It's a gathering spot for everyone, including our dogs and cats." The beautiful cane ottoman at the end of the bed was inherited from Bruce's parents.



The focal wall in Michael's bedroom was created with wallpaper from Builders. The "Mikey" number plate on the door was a gift from a friend.



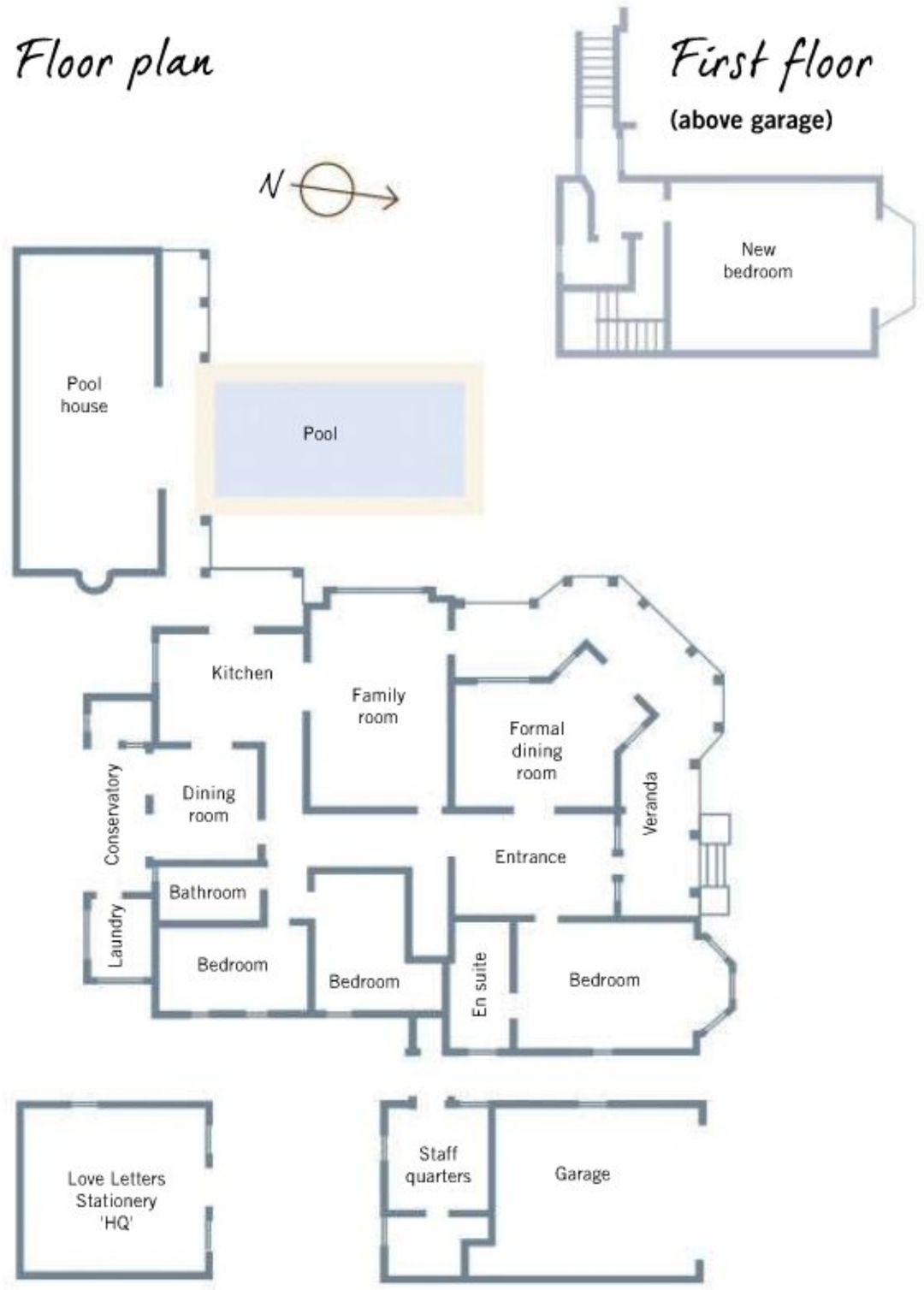
Bed base from Mistry's, table lamp from Builders, scatter cushions from Typo

Emma's en-suite bathroom was painted with Dulux Surf Wash. The collage above the bath was a gift from Bridget to Emma on her previous birthday; it's a collection of sentimental photos specially selected by her friends.

Desk and mirror from Ruby's Cottage, wicker chair inherited from Bruce's mother



Floor plan



The sash windows in Emma's bedroom overlook the front garden and allow plenty of sunlight into this virtually all-white space. >>

Hanging chair from Cane World, rug from MRP Home, bed base was an antique find

Bridget fondly refers to this cottage as "Love Letters HQ". "It's so cute – it's perfect for the kind of business I run. And I really like that it's completely separate to the main house, as one does need to close up sometimes and just get away from the office!"

Bridget added a feminine touch to her office by painting one of the walls a light pink; she also gave the old wooden floors a fresh coat of white paint to brighten up the small space.







The pool house *(below)* adjacent to the main house is ideal for entertaining. "The kids love the pool and we especially love the pizza oven – it's the easiest way to entertain," Bridget says.



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Builders 0860 284 533, builders.co.za **Cane World** 021 510 3757, caneworld.co.za **H&M Home** 0860 690 707, hm.com/za **Handles Inc.** 021 422 2322, handlesinc.co.za **KBAC Flooring** 021 464 4320, kbacflooring.co.za **Love Letters Stationery** 021 762 8391, lovelettersstationery.co.za **Mistry's** 021 510 2426, mistrys.co.za **MRP Home** 0800 212 535, mrphome.com **Ruby's Cottage** 021 683 0060, rubyscottage.co.za **Typo** 011 268 3700, cottonon.co.za **Weylandts** 0860 103 400, weylandts.co.za

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Who lives here?
Marius van de Wall
WHERE Sea Point, Cape Town
SIZE 80m², including enclosed balcony

We love... the narrow freestanding counter – it's a great space-saver!

HELLO sunshine!

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LIVING AREA

The living room is flooded with winter sunlight, thanks to large windows on the north-facing side of the apartment. The Art Deco lounge suite belonged to Marius's grandmother and he's had the coffee table since his student days. "I bought it at a pawn shop for R55!" A hatch and narrow counter connect the living area to the kitchen.

Cushions from Zana

Tired of the maintenance required by a big house with a garden and pool, a reader traded it all in for a light and airy Sea Point apartment tailored to his needs.

By **Marian van Wyk** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**

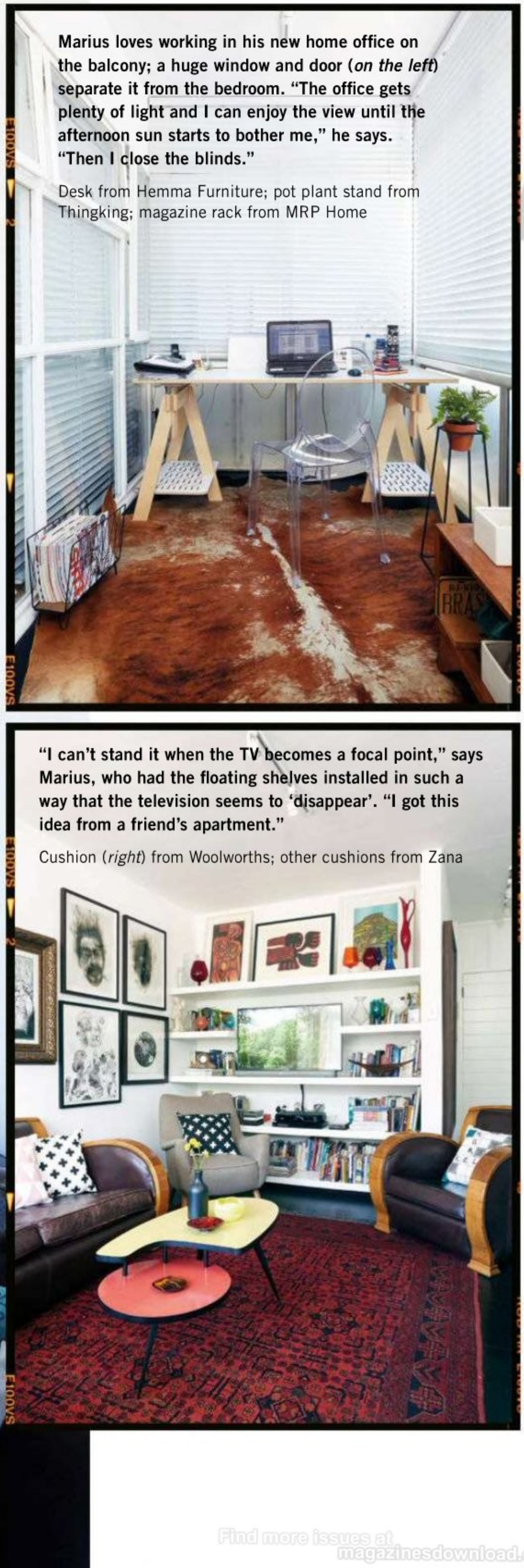
OPEN-PLAN BALCONY

A sleeper couch is located in the zone between the dining area and home office on the balcony; the hatch above it used to be a kitchen window. The recycled parquet floor was stained black because the blocks weren't all in the same colour – a clever idea Marius picked up in *Home*. After battling to find the right round table to fit the limited dining space, Marius was happy to discover this second-hand piece on Furnicape's website. Ghost chairs help to make the room appear less busy.

Cushions from Woolworths

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Marius loves working in his new home office on the balcony; a huge window and door (*on the left*) separate it from the bedroom. "The office gets plenty of light and I can enjoy the view until the afternoon sun starts to bother me," he says. "Then I close the blinds."

Desk from Hemma Furniture; pot plant stand from Thingking; magazine rack from MRP Home

"I can't stand it when the TV becomes a focal point," says Marius, who had the floating shelves installed in such a way that the television seems to 'disappear'. "I got this idea from a friend's apartment."

Cushion (*right*) from Woolworths; other cushions from Zana

"Really dated" was Marius van de Wall's first impression of his flat, today a contemporary space in Sea Point.

"It was all separate rooms; in fact, they were poky little holes. There was a narrow living room, an old-fashioned kitchen that felt as if it had been squeezed into a passageway, and an incredibly cramped bathroom with a Novilon floor."

Fortunately, this ex-Johannesburger, businessman and TV producer was able to look past these shortcomings. "I actually prefer to buy an old place and rip everything out, rather than put up with someone else's taste," says Marius firmly.

"The day I came to view the apartment there was wonderful sunlight streaming in through the windows – and everything is within walking distance! I'm a stone's throw from the promenade and there are all kinds of shops and restaurants to choose from. Sea Point has an amazing cosmopolitan vibe; I feel really connected to what's happening on the street.

"I had none of this in Johannesburg. There, I lived in a beautiful old house behind high walls; there were lots of trees, but no sunlight. I was also tired of the excessive maintenance that the pond, pool and garden needed."

Marius took ownership in February 2016 and started his renovations that same month; by the end of April 2016, he'd moved in. Today, he is thriving in this smaller abode and loves his new lifestyle and surroundings.

"I wanted to create a cohesive, tranquil space and challenge myself to live with less. During the transition from Johannesburg to Cape Town, I got rid of a lot of furniture and possessions and my new apartment reflects this mind shift. I literally, and figuratively, got rid of baggage!

"In the process, I discovered that I don't actually like huge spaces. I love living in this compact apartment that's been tailored to suit my needs.

"I'm also a city slicker who loves walking, so Sea Point suits me down to the ground: all I have to do is walk down some stairs and stroll out the gate – and the hustle and bustle of the city awaits me… in its unique laid-back Cape Town way!" >>

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On the job...

During the renovation, Marius approached his apartment as if it were one big room. The only element he retained from the original space was the parquet flooring in the living room, passage and bedroom. "It was challenging: there was only one type of lighting in all the rooms, all the walls were white, and although the apartment had a modern kitchen and bathroom, there was also a black-and-white theme throughout," he explains.

The first step was to remove some of the walls to get rid of the various poky rooms. "I demolished the long L-shaped wall between the living room, passage and kitchen, as well as part of the wall between the kitchen and balcony. This immediately made the whole apartment much lighter," Marius says.

The balcony was divided in two by a sliding door, with a red cement floor on one side and a white tiled floor on the other. "The space was completely underutilised and cut off from the rest of the flat," says Marius. The old floors were lifted and recycled parquet blocks laid so that the floor in the living room and on the balcony would be the same. Now, one half of the balcony is used as a dining area and the other half as a home office.

The bathroom and kitchen were completely gutted and redesigned. "I got quotes from three respected kitchen companies but one of them immediately declined because they said it would be impossible to fit a washing machine, dishwasher, stove and refrigerator in the available space.

"Of course, there are always a few surprises. The kitchen plans had just been finalised when we realised the distribution board couldn't be moved. So there it stayed, on a wall I really wanted to break out completely. Fortunately, everything worked out perfectly and it looks as if it was planned all along." >>

[DÉCOR & ART]

"I prefer unfussy décor," says Marius. His palette is neutral: predominantly black and white with pops of colour to brighten it up. The white walls are mostly covered with artworks – one of his great passions. "When I chance upon the right piece of art, it gets my heart racing and I know I won't be able to leave that gallery or exhibition without it! If something speaks to me, I am drawn to it but I also talk to experts and do a little homework first. And with every purchase, I promise myself it won't happen again..."



KITCHEN

The old kitchen was a narrow space with just enough room for a stove and fridge. The new kitchen has it all: plenty of shelving, a washing machine-cum-tumble dryer in a tall cupboard, and a dishwasher. "It was a huge challenge, but Tao Arthur of Kitch Inc came up with the perfect design," says Marius.



BATHROOM

The new bathroom appears bigger than the old one – thanks to all the glass, mirrors and white wall tiles. Marius replaced the bath, which made the old bathroom seem even longer and narrower, with a shower specially designed for the space.

This part of the wall had to be retained because the distribution board couldn't be relocated. The kitchen design was simply adjusted to work around it.



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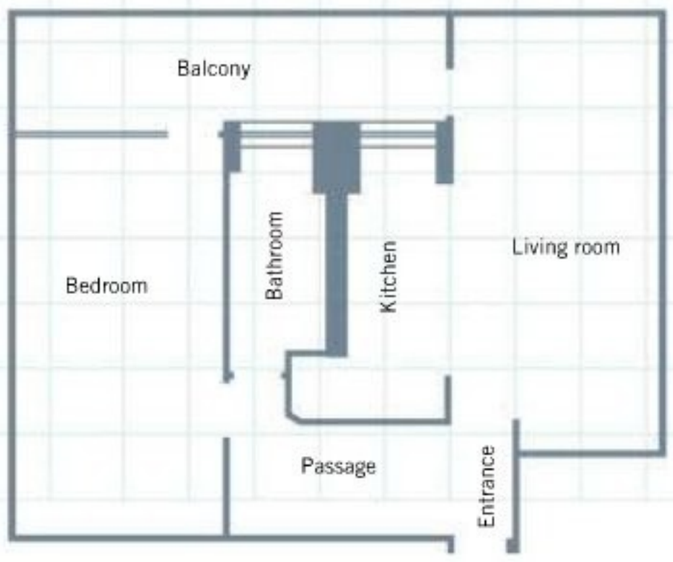
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Renovator's notes

"In such a small space, it's essential to think things through and work intelligently," advises Marius.



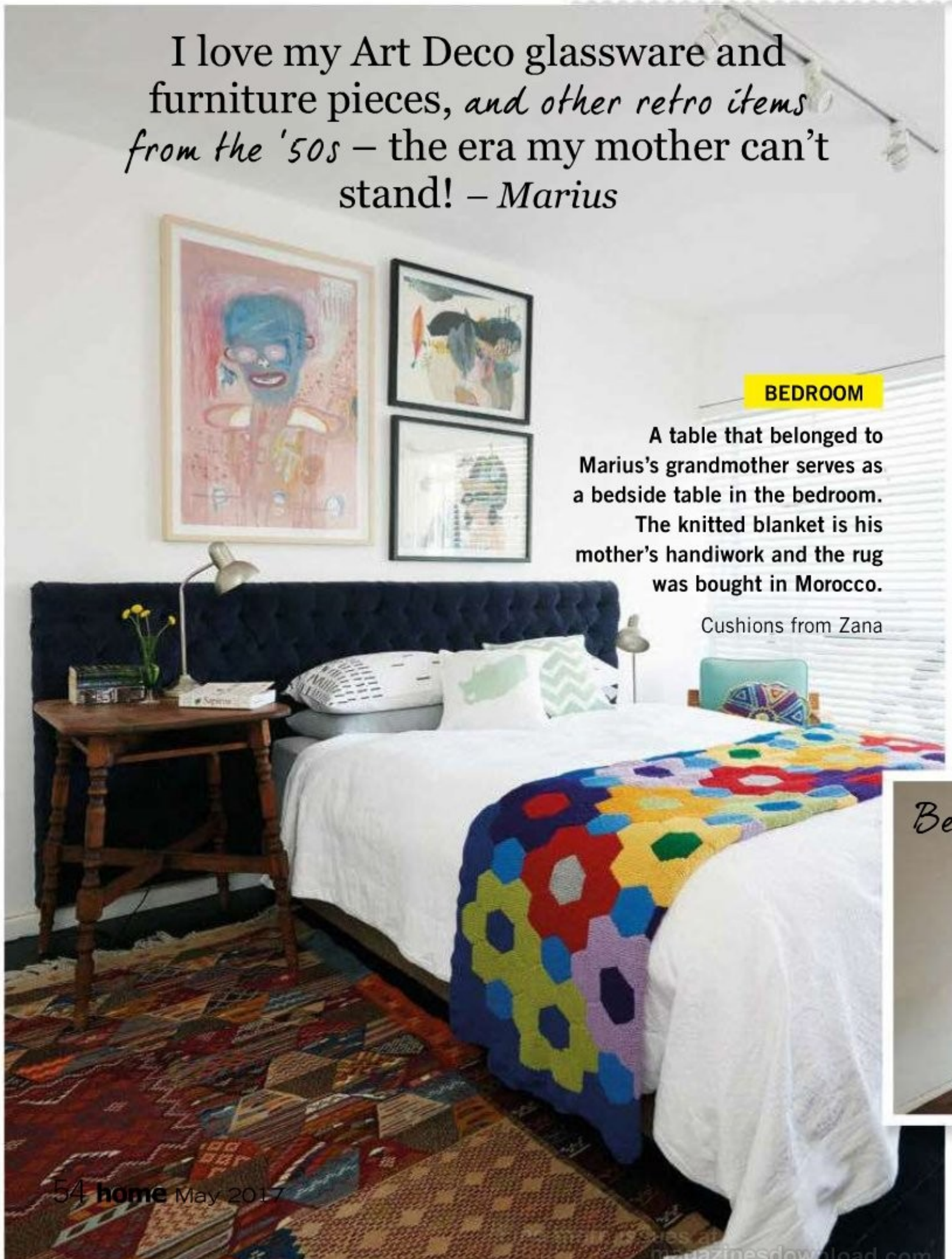
Total cost: R295 000



Marius installed track lighting instead of downlights throughout the apartment.

Engineer's report for breaking out walls	R2 700	Bathroom fittings	25 500
Builder and building costs	50 000	Kitchen wall tiles	3 200
Electrician	22 000	Bathroom floor and wall tiles	8 000
Plumber	14 400	Blinds	2 800
New kitchen	120 000	Mirrors and shower glass in bathroom	10 000
Tiler	4 000	New interior doors	2 800
Parquet floor (installation and staining)	21 000	Floating shelves and new cupboard doors in bedroom	8 600

I love my Art Deco glassware and furniture pieces, *and other retro items from the '50s* – the era my mother can't stand! – *Marius*



BEDROOM

A table that belonged to Marius's grandmother serves as a bedside table in the bedroom. The knitted blanket is his mother's handiwork and the rug was bought in Morocco.

Cushions from Zana

Fine finishes

Kitchen installation Kitch Inc (021 447 2791, kitchinc.co.za)
Parquet floor J M Flooring (071 987 8671)
Bathroom fittings Waterstone (021 975 9000, waterstone.co.za)
Kitchen wall tiles Moroccan Warehouse (021 461 8318)
Bathroom floor and wall tiles Not Just Tiles (083 297 3717)
Floating shelves and bedroom cupboard doors DIY Deon (084 589 5026)
Accessories Furnicape (021 558 7546, furnicape.co.za); Hemma Furniture (hemma.co.za); MRP Home (0800 212 535, mrphome.com); Thingking (meta.thingking.co.za); Woolworths (0860 022 002, woolworths.co.za); Zana (021 448 6743, zanaproducts.co.za)



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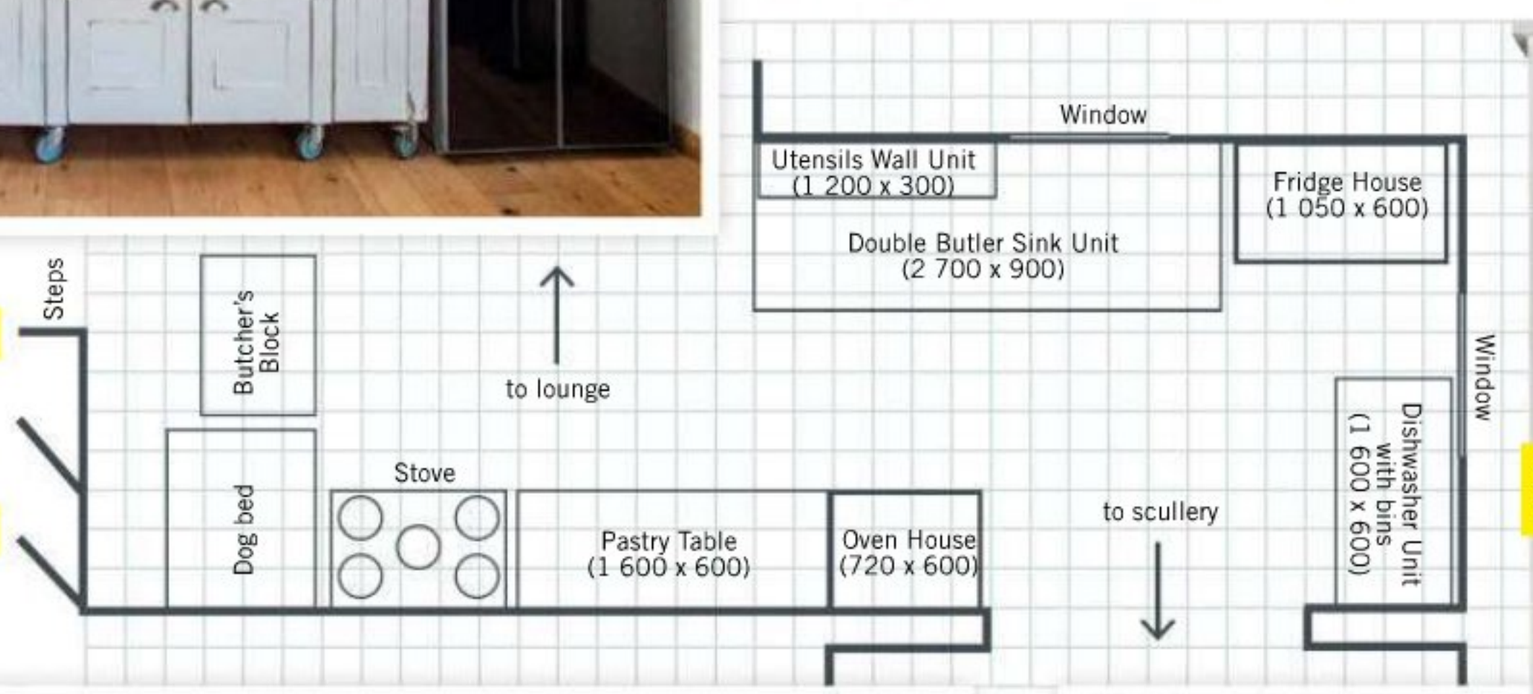
"People are often hesitant to buy a kitchen online but when our clients receive their units, they're thrilled with the quality – and convenience – of their purchase," says Milestone Kitchens owner, Silvia Miles.



Swedish Style Double Butler Sink Unit with pot drawers and stainless steel top from R44 240



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Swedish Style Oven House from R12 359



French Flair Ash Pastry Table with stainless steel top from R17 669



Photographs Sally Chance

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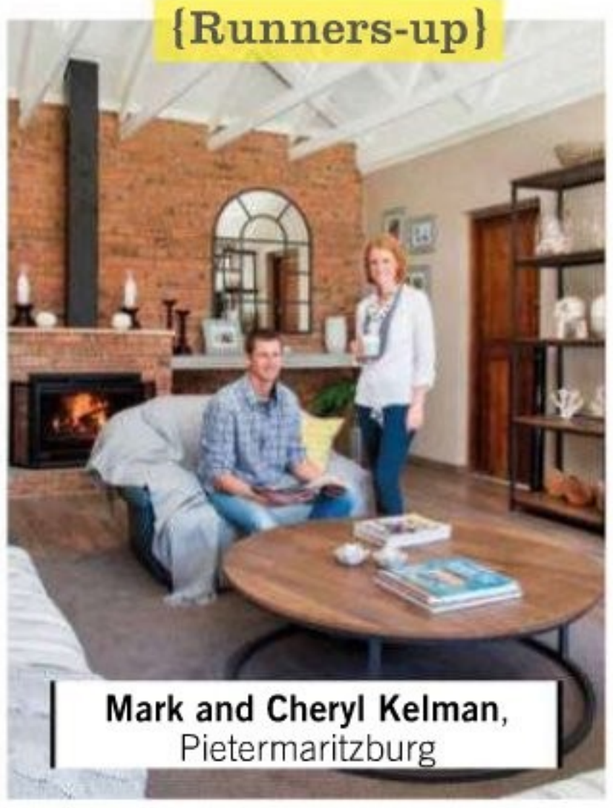
Stanley Cornelius and Candice Theunissen, Wolseley

{Runners-up}



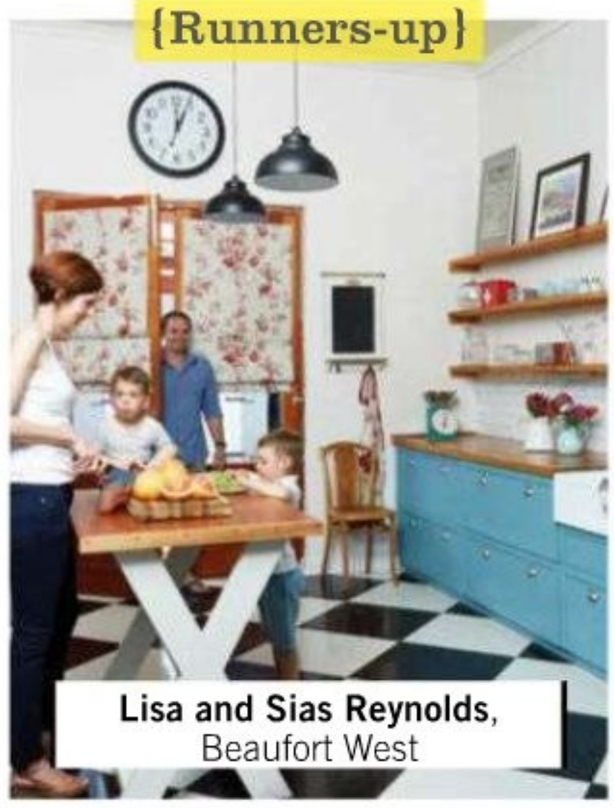
Dewald and Erika van Zyl, Prince Albert

{Runners-up}



Mark and Cheryl Kelman, Pietermaritzburg

{Runners-up}



Lisa and Sias Reynolds, Beaufort West

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HOW TO ENTER

Visit **fixit.tuis.co.za** and enter online; the new and improved microsite makes it even easier to share your project with us. If you have any queries, email roxanne.cloete@media24.com or call 021 408 3815. *Please remember to upload high-resolution images (at least 2MB).*

ENTRIES CLOSE 30 June 2017

IMPORTANT Remember the following:

- You need to briefly explain what your project entailed and submit a budget breakdown.
- All projects entered should have been completed within the past three years and **at least 50% of the work must have been done by the homeowner – this is a competition for people who don't mind getting their hands dirty!**

The competition is sponsored by BUCO (formerly Pennypinchers) and Timbercity. The **winners will receive a R35 000 voucher** and there are plenty of other vouchers up for grabs for entries that make it into the Top 10 and Top 5.

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15608BKA/H

8 WAYS WITH *mirrors*

This versatile décor accessory can make a room appear bigger and brighter, create a classic or contemporary focal point, and it's an easy way to put your stamp on a space.

By **Marian van Wyk**
Photographs **Francois Oberholster and Henrique Wilding**

#1 *In triplicate*

Three mirrors resting on the floor might seem like a very simple décor idea, but in Brigitte Hills' bright, white office the wooden frames add warmth to a space that might otherwise appear cold and stark. They also provide a striking contrast to the white palette and complement the unusually high ceiling by drawing your eye upwards.

Interior by
Brigitte Hills
Interior Design

#2 *French elegance*

An armoire with beautiful carved detail and large mirrors creates a glamorous focal point in Kiewiet and Renier Hugo's home in Bloubergstrand. "I bought the wardrobe at Onsite Gallery in Woodstock many years ago," says Kiewiet. "It was meant for my kitchen but it got a bit lost next to my purple stove. Against this wall, however, it tells a story..." >>

A glass act

Revamp an old cupboard with a gorgeous mirror for an instant update. If your cupboard doors feature intricate carvings like Kiewiet's, rather call in the help of a professional glass installer. But if it's a more straightforward job, do it yourself. "Look out for a wooden cupboard with doors that have a recessed panel within a frame," says *Home's* DIY guru, Deon de Goede. "You should be able to easily unscrew or cut out the panel. Get a mirror cut to size to fit the gap and secure it with a mirror adhesive such as Mirrorfix-MS or mirror clips available from hardware stores.

> It soothes my soul to have such *beautiful* things around me.
> – *Kiewiet Hugo*



Table and mirror frame painted in Dulux Woodland Pearl

#3 *Just for fun*

Instead of one big mirror, interior designer Claudia Fabian of Mer Design placed five smaller ones in Ilana and André Joubert's entrance hall in West Beach near Cape Town. "They transform the space from gloomy and severe to friendly and fun. They also reflect light and frame the other décor elements in the room," Claudia says. "In addition, the uneven number of mirrors and their different sizes create an interesting composition."



Interior design by Mer Design; mirrors from Supreme Mouldings

#4 *Suits the space*

A small table and separate mirror with a frame painted in the same mint green serve as a dressing table in 17-year-old Bea Kluyts' bedroom in Welgedacht, Cape Town. "After we broke out a wall, there was an awkward passage where the dressing table now stands," says her mother, Thea. "Bea really wanted a dressing table but there was simply no room, so when one of my colleagues decided to toss out their ball-and-claw table, I was only too glad to take it off their hands as it was perfect for this space." The 'frame' consists of old picture frames pasted onto the mirror; they were previously cerise pink and white.

#5 *Cast in stone*

A large inherited mirror softens the feel of this potentially cold cement-look bathroom. "It's old and battered but I like combining the cold look of the concrete walls and basin with an antique – it creates contrast," says homeowner Martina Klopper. The small mirror was a market find. "I always envisaged a big, old mirror on that wall but I couldn't find one, so I used the small freestanding one. When a big mirror surfaced out of storage, I was so used to having the small one that it stayed. I guess you could call it 'accidental decoration'." An old brass tray also adds warmth. The basin is cast concrete; a latex bonding agent was added to the concrete mix to make it less porous and it was sealed with Sovereign Seal. >>



Text Kim Arendse

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We love this!

At first glance, the panel appears to be a see-through screen but what you're actually seeing is the reflection in the mirror behind the screen!



#6 *A layered effect*

In a space with an all-white palette, it's a good idea to use layers of accessories to add interest to your décor – a mirror will add depth and life, says Cape interior designer Marcelle Crowther of Hocus Interior Design Studio. In her bedroom, the focal wall features floor-to-ceiling design elements that really pack a punch: there's an oversized headboard as well as mirrors behind the Perspex panels on either side of the bed. Marcelle drew the intricate design for the panels on a computer programme and had them laser-cut. "Just make sure you know where the electrical sockets are in the wall before tackling something like this," she advises.

Interior design by Hocus Interior Design Studio

#7 *A colourful collection*

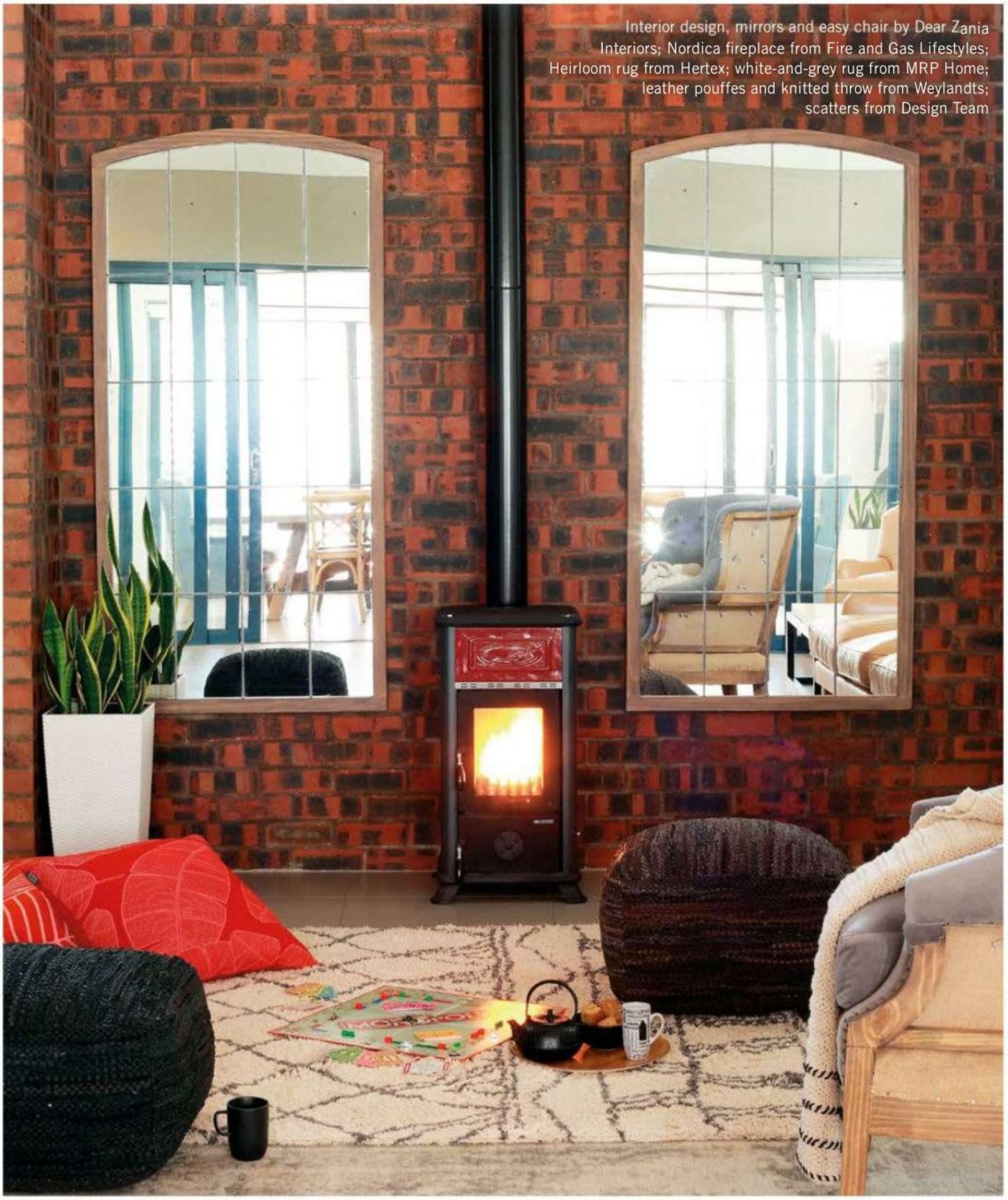
Pops of colour and a clever mix of designer pieces and upcycled junk shop finds define the quirky home of artist Lisa Swanepoel. With its lofty exposed beams, the kitchen is a riot of colour and pattern that makes for a warm, welcoming space. "There's a sea of stuff in there, from plants and glass to mirrors and lamps," says Lisa. The collection of small mirrors between the floating shelves add depth and contribute to the eye-catching layered look. "I love it," says Lisa. >>

I'm not afraid of things that don't match; *the more it stands out, the better.* I like the element of surprise. – *Lisa*

Production Luanne Toms/Frank Features • *Photographs* David Ross/Frank Features

#8 *Perfectly symmetrical*

These two large mirrors on either side of the fireplace create more than just a pretty symmetrical focal point in Renée Hitten's Somerset West home. "I decided on two oversized mirrors for three reasons," says interior designer Zania Grobbelaar. "In this somewhat dark space, the mirrors create the illusion of windows and reflect light. It's also about proportion: the fireplace is quite small but thanks to the huge mirrors, it isn't dwarfed by the expanse of brick wall. And, lastly, the simple lines of the leaded glass and the oak frames soften the look of the brick wall. >>



Interior design, mirrors and easy chair by Dear Zania Interiors; Nordica fireplace from Fire and Gas Lifestyles; Heirloom rug from Hertex; white-and-grey rug from MRP Home; leather pouffes and knitted throw from Weylandts; scatters from Design Team

STOCKISTS Brigitte Hills Interior Design 083 652 9895, brigittehills.co.za **Dear Zania Interiors** 082 787 7872, facebook.com/DearZaniaInteriors **Design Team** 012 653 1973, designteamfabrics.co.za **Fire and Gas Lifestyles** 021 852 7173, fireandgas.co.za **Hertex** 0860 437 839, hertex.co.za **Hocus Interior Design Studio** 021 425 1317, hocus.co.za **Mer Design** 082 332 2291, merdesign.co.za **MRP Home** 0800 212 535, mrphome.com **Onsite Gallery** 021 462 1357, onsitegallery.co.za **Supreme Mouldings** 011 086 8888, suprememouldings.co.za **Weylandts** 0860 103 400, weylandts.co.za

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Let's go shopping!

Choose a mirror that's a true reflection of your personal style.

By **Kim Arendse**

Classic beauty
Norma mirror (80 x 60cm) R495, Bathroom Bizarre

Hang it up
Distressed mirror with rope detail (48cm D) R509 Biggie Best

On the curve
Soft-edged wall mirror (60 x 180cm) R2 990, Arkivio

Country charm Rustic wooden mirror (89.5 x 121cm) R3 950, vintage-etc.com

Look sharp!
Zina mirror (490 L x 30 W x 1 460cm H) R2 995, Block & Chisel

In the round
Jennifer mirror (43cm D) R220, Bulbinella

Who is fairest of them all?
Angela mirror (55 x 95cm) R653, Bulbinella

Stand tall
Standing mirror (45 x 156cm) R1 300, MRP Home

Like bees to honey
Hexagonal mirrors (25cm) from R550 each, Lim

STOCKISTS Arkivio 082 840 7143, arkivio.co.za **Bathroom Bizarre** 011 372 4000, bathroom.co.za **Biggie Best** 011 465 1117, biggiebestwebshop.co.za
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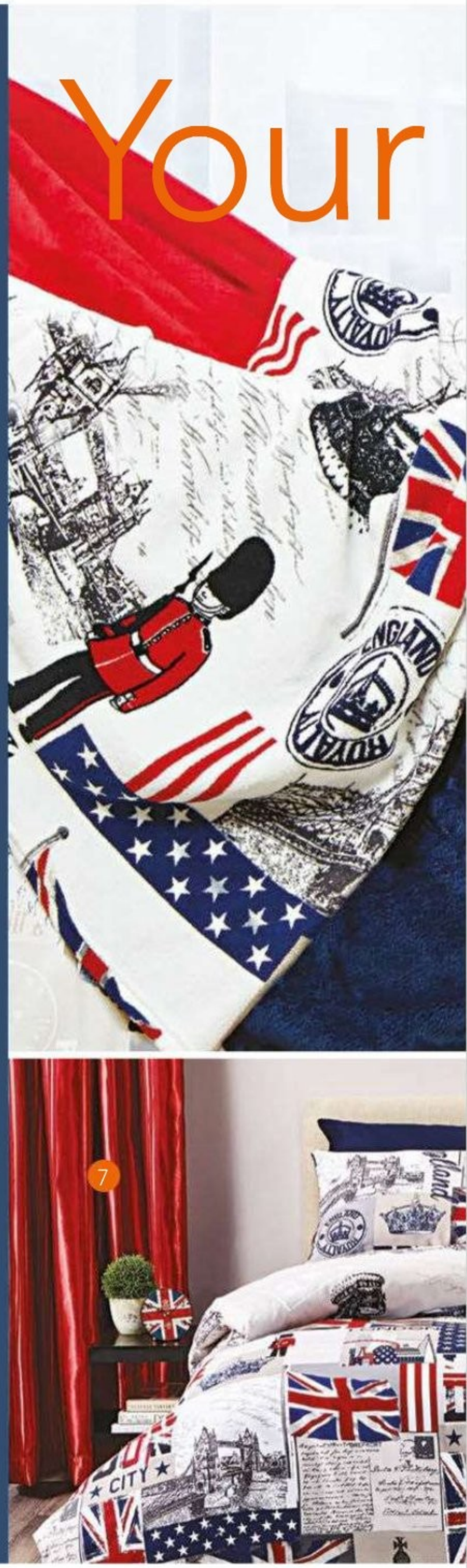


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*Selected stores: P.E. The Bridge, Canal Walk, Mitchell's Plein, Cape Gate, Vaal Mall, Midlands Mall PMB, Kempton Park, Clearwater Mall, Gateway, Kolonade, East Rand Mall, Mall @ Carnival, Pavilion, Somerset Mall, The Glen, Loch Logan, Wonderpark, Keywest, Wernhill Park Windhoek, Bhunu Mall Swaziland, Southgate Mall, Greenstone Mall, Benoni, Cresta, Highveld Mall, N1 City Mall, Rustenburg Waterfall, Eastgate, Vredenburg, Blue Route, Mall of the North, Potchefstroom Mooi River, Mountain Mill Worcester, Mall of Africa, Kuils River, Mimosa Mall, Shelly Beach, George, Richards Bay & Tygervalley.

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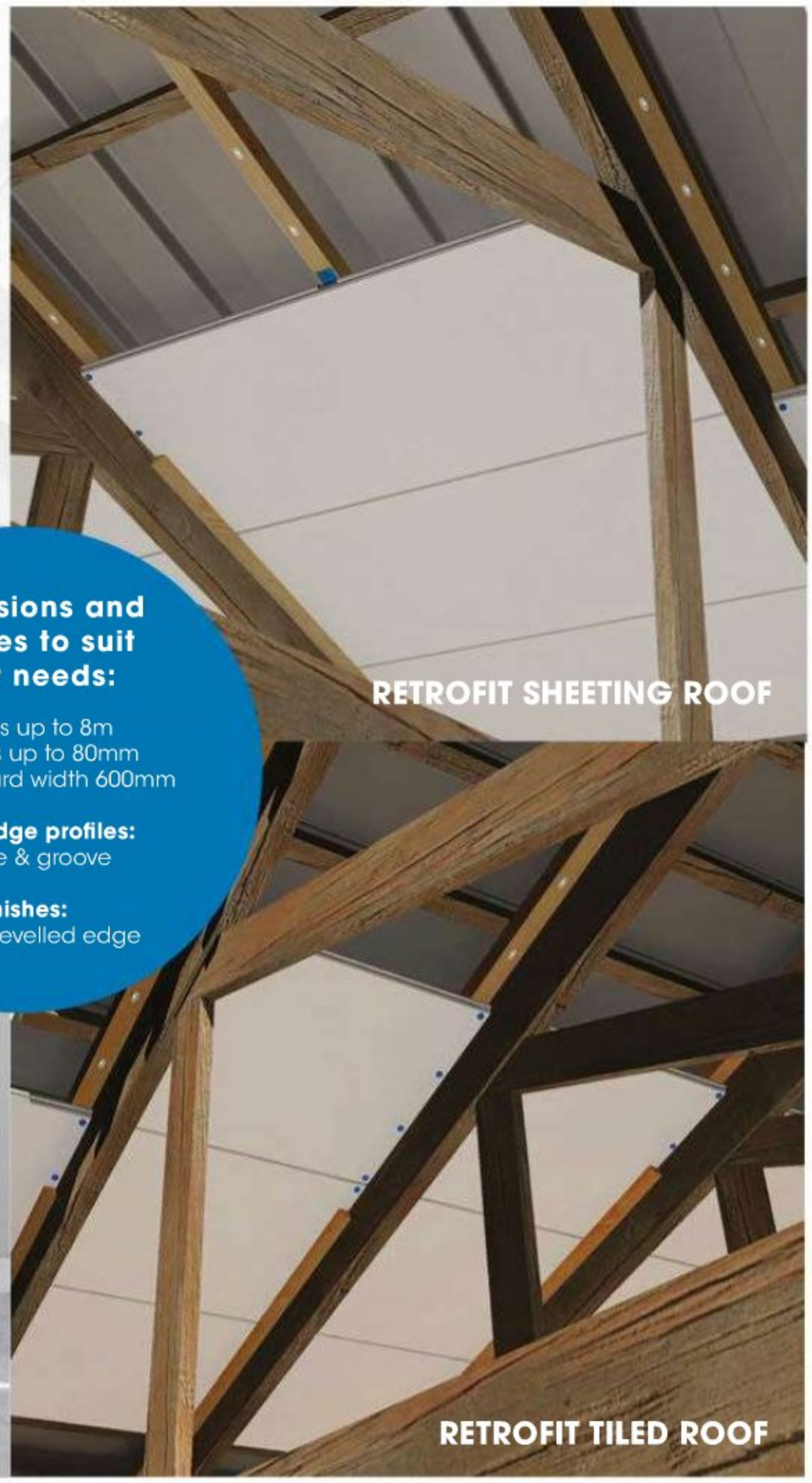


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Deon de Goede

Make a vertical garden

Add greenery to bare walls with a pretty planter box that can be assembled in three easy steps.

QUICK PROJECT GUIDE
Hard labour 3/10
Skill level 3/10
Time needed ± 1 hour
Do it yourself for ± R180
(wood, screws and washers R100, blanket R55, potting soil R25)

Project note
If you're planning to varnish or paint your wood, do it beforehand – it will make your task a lot easier.



By **Deon de Goede**
Photographs **Francois Oberholster**
Styling **Marian van Wyk**

EXPERT ADVICE



JJ's tips for your succulent planter box

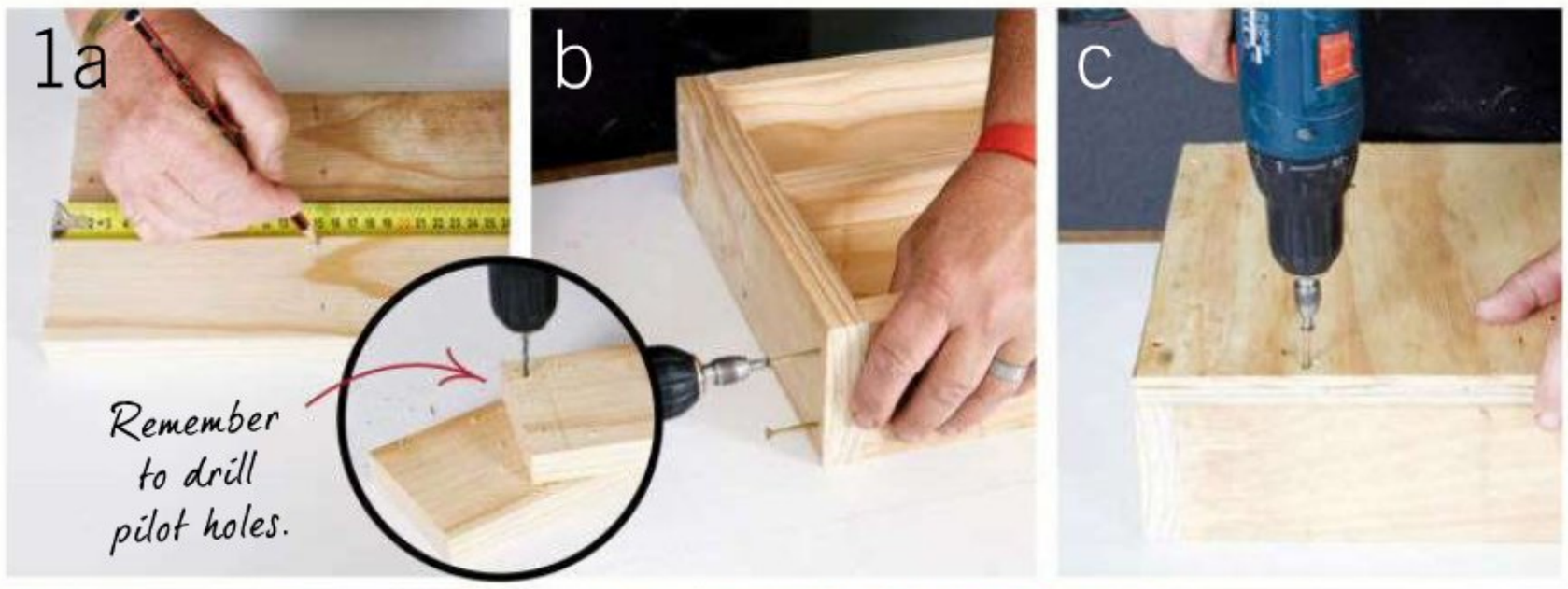
Don't attach the planter box to the wall too soon. "Leave it on a flat surface and allow enough time for the plants to root properly," says gardening expert, JJ van Rensburg of Garden World in Johannesburg. "Rooting will take about 6–8 weeks, and then you're good to go. Various types of smaller *Echeveria*, *Sedum* and *Crassula* will all work well. You can use Bidim geotextile instead of the blanket, and give the soil extra stability with some plastic netting."

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com

You will need

TOOLS
- cordless drill
- scissors
- 12mm spade bit
- sharp knife

SHOPPING LIST
- 22 x 95mm planed pine, cut to:
  two pieces of 300mm and three pieces of 660mm (frame)
- 22 x 44mm planed pine, cut to:
  three pieces of 700mm and four pieces of 95mm (finishing)
- 18mm plywood 700 x 300mm in size (back)
- blanket
- one pack of 6mm x 40mm chipboard screws
- one pack of 8mm x 16mm chipboard screws
- 10 washers
- one bag of potting soil



1 Make marks where you will drill pilot holes in the middle and at each end of the two 300mm planks. Glue and screw two 660mm planks between the ends of the two 300mm planks with 6mm x 40mm chipboard screws. Screw the final 660mm plank in the middle to form two compartments. Then attach the 700 x 300mm plywood to the back of the frame.



2 Use the spade bit to drill drainage holes in the side that will face downwards, as well as in the middle plank. Cut the blanket 800mm wide and attach it to the back of the side that has no drainage holes with the 8mm x 16mm chipboard screws and washers. Fill the compartment with potting soil and fold the blanket over, securing it by screwing the 700mm plank to the frame on top of the blanket. Trim off any excess blanket. Repeat this process for the bottom compartment. Screw the remaining 700mm plank to the bottom edge, and then the four 95mm planks between the 700mm planks to finish off your box.





Plant your garden

Using a sharp knife, cut slits in the blanket through which you will plant the succulents in the soil. Plant your chosen plants and water the blanket and soil well. When you're ready to hang your vertical garden, use hooks to attach it to the wall.

Timber and screws supplied by Cape Boards

STOCKISTS Cape Boards 021 981 0152, capeboards.co.za
Deon de Goede 084 589 5026, deon@diydeon.co.za

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Shelly Bergh

Denim DUTY

Upcycle an old pair of jeans and create a handy ottoman!

By **Shelly Bergh**
Photographs **Francois Oberholster**

QUICK PROJECT GUIDE
Hard labour 1/10
Skill level 1/10
Time needed 3 hours
Do it yourself for R35
(fabric glue R35)



TOOLS
- scissors
- pins

YOU WILL NEED
- ottoman
- old jeans
- fabric glue



Country Road posters and throw from Woolworths; standing lamp and Ulva sofa from @home; floral scatter, mugs, tray and rug from MRP Home





1 Cut the jeans so that you have flat pieces to work with. **2** Pin the pieces to the ottoman to work out how best to cover the surface.





3 When you're happy with where all the pieces will go, glue them to the ottoman using the fabric glue.

4 Trim off the excess fabric at the bottom, leaving about 20mm to fold back.

5 Fold the fabric over the bottom of the ottoman and stick in place with the fabric glue.

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Email your queries to experts@homemag.co.za



Ask the experts

Want to know how to remove old adhesive from a wooden floor or keen to transform a braai room? You ask – we find the answers.

Compiled by Kim Arendse



Coming unstuck

Laurika Kruger writes **We recently bought a house with wooden floors, which the previous owners had covered with Novilon. We have now lifted the Novilon and need to remove the adhesive before we can sand and varnish the wood. Any tips on how to remove it?**



→ **Frikkie Greeff, managing director of Woodoc, replies** If the adhesive left on the wooden surface is black, it's probably a tar or bitumen-type adhesive and can be removed with mineral turpentine and a sponge scourer. If, however, it is yellow or khaki in colour, it's probably contact adhesive and you will need to use a specialist product. **Tile and Floor Care** makes a product called **Glue Remover** that works well; it's available in most hardware stores.

We suggest you proceed as follows:

1 Remove the adhesive as described above – the type of glue used will determine which process you follow.

2 When all the adhesive has been removed, wipe the floor well with mineral turpentine and a soft cloth.

3 Sand the floor to as fine a finish as possible, preferably with an industrial floor sander.

4 Clean the floor again with mineral turpentine to remove all the dust.

5 Allow the floor to dry thoroughly. Now you can seal it; select one of the following Woodoc products:

- **Woodoc 25 Polyurethane Floor Sealer** is available in a matte or satin finish; it imparts a rich, natural colour to the wood and protects it from damage.
- **Woodoc Water-Borne Floor Sealer** is available in either a matte or gloss finish; it does not alter the colour of the wood and it won't yellow. It's also quick-drying and virtually odourless.

6 Apply a liberal coat of the sealant of your choice on the floor with a good-quality paintbrush; make sure you have an even, wet finish. Allow the first coat to dry and repeat with a minimum of three coats. Please refer to the instructions on the product for more information.

7 Once you've applied three coats, your floor will be resistant to most bumps and scrapes. However, it's best to avoid scratching the floor unnecessarily by, for example, putting felt on the bottom of dining chair legs which are often moved around.

8 To clean the floor, simply sweep it with a soft broom. Never wash the floor, especially not with soap and water as this will immediately dull the finish of the wood.

CONTACT 0800 411 200, woodoc.com

Every effort is made to answer all questions; unfortunately, we cannot answer every question personally. *Home* reserves the right to edit questions for publication.

Quick questions



Q: Who designed Linda Evans' and Almarie Mead's beautiful home featured in your January 2017 issue? – *Grant Solomons, Knysna*
A: Albey Alberts of Inline Design (albey@inlinedesign.co.za) was responsible for their new garage and studio office as well as the pool.



Q: On page 25 of your November 2014 issue, there's a couch covered in different bits of material; where can I buy pieces of fabric like that? – *Elna Joubert*
A: You can find affordable material to create this kind of patchwork look at places such as The Fabric Warehouse (**thefabricwarehouse.co.za**) and look out for end-of-range sales at fabric houses such as Hertex by following them on social media.



Q: I love the paint effect on the wall on page 40 of your April 2016 issue; how can I achieve the same look on a plastered and painted wall? – *Sunét Cordier, Durbanville*
A: Homeowner Wehrner Lemmer suggests using a very watery cement mixture (just cement powder and water; no sand) and adding graphite powder, little by little, until you achieve the desired tone. Paint this on with a big brush but test it out in an inconspicuous spot first. If you're unsure of doing it yourself, enlist the help of a paint-technique specialist.



Q: What is the name of the colour on the walls on page 12 of your November 2016 issue? – *Justine Willemse, Tarkastad*
A: The room has been painted in Plascon Lapis Blue. >>

Décor dilemma

The challenge

Sania Hagen-Houndsome of Paarl writes
Our braai room has always been our family's favourite space. It has seen much laughter, celebrations, good food, heartache and tears. Armed with my *Home* magazine, I've done lots of home improvements but the braai room was my husband's domain.

He passed away three-and-a-half years ago after suddenly getting cancer. We got the news while we were in our braai room; we cried there and he lay on the couch until almost the end. That's where I still shed a tear when I'm alone. Even though I'm on my own now, I still braai every weekend.

To cut a long story short, I think I'm ready to make "our" braai room "my" braai room. Can you give me some ideas? My ceiling is made of reeds and I'd like to know if I can paint them white. I am not a fan of a contemporary look; I prefer something between farmhouse and beach house. I like simplicity, light and natural colours and I'm an outdoorsy person, so I'd love it if my braai room flowed seamlessly out into the garden. What do you suggest?



THE SOLUTION

Stylist and photographer Margaux Tait of mylifestyled.co.za replies With a few quick and easy changes, this space can be turned into a cosy retreat where new memories can be made.

A braai room shouldn't become a dumping ground; it's always a good idea to create space by decluttering. If you're using this area to store various items, consider installing a customised cupboard to stash them in. Here are a few cost-effective suggestions for a stylish transformation:

1 Paint This is the quickest and most cost-effective way to transform a space. I suggest using a palette that echoes your love of the outdoors. Grey, blue and a light sage will create a calm colour scheme that can be energised with a contrasting accent colour; consider introducing yellow in accessories such as scatter cushions or even just a bunch of fresh flowers from your garden.

You could also paint the exposed brick in a light dove-grey and the cabinets in white or slightly off-white for added warmth. This white can then be echoed in the ceiling reeds (*see box for instructions*), and the structural wooden beams can be painted with the same grey as used on the bricks; a distressed paint technique might work well here, but it will be just as effective if the beams are left in their original state.

2 Greenery Consider landscaping just outside the sliding door and include some of your (and your husband's) favourite flowers. Adding indoor plants will soften the lines of the ceiling and bricks; choose plants that will flourish in the environment such as a moth orchid, peace lily and areca palm.

Include a few hanging baskets or more contemporary plant-holders; a fresh bunch of flowers as a centrepiece on the coffee table will create a feminine touch.

3 Furniture Use a fabric tablecloth to update the look of the square dining table; café-style stools will add a bit of a twist. Also install a light fitting that lines up with the centre of the table.

4 Reupholster and add texture Give the old sofa a makeover by reupholstering it in a striking striped fabric, or have a slipcover and scatter cushions made to order. Add a few floor pillows, pouffes or ottomans as informal seating.

Keep a few throws in a basket for when it gets chilly and you want to snuggle up on the sofa with a good book. Baskets add texture and can also be used to store pine cones and wood. Put similar baskets under the existing coffee table as storage for books and magazines. Include a 160 x 230cm carpet to anchor your setting – consider a rough natural fibre rug such as jute to echo the look of the baskets.

Modern blinds will give the windows a sleek appearance or you could use sheer curtains if you want to create a more feminine touch – but you will have to wash out the smell of braai smoke regularly!

5 A loving touch To honour the memory of your husband, I suggest incorporating a tray with beautiful scented candles on the coffee table so that friends and family can light a candle when they feel moved to do so. This can be combined with fresh flowers or special items that were dear to him.

The space above the braai already features various pictures but with the new look I suggest using natural wood or distressed frames to display family photographs or sayings that were unique to your husband. Group the pictures closer together and keep the negative space (the space between the frames) the same to create a perfect balance.





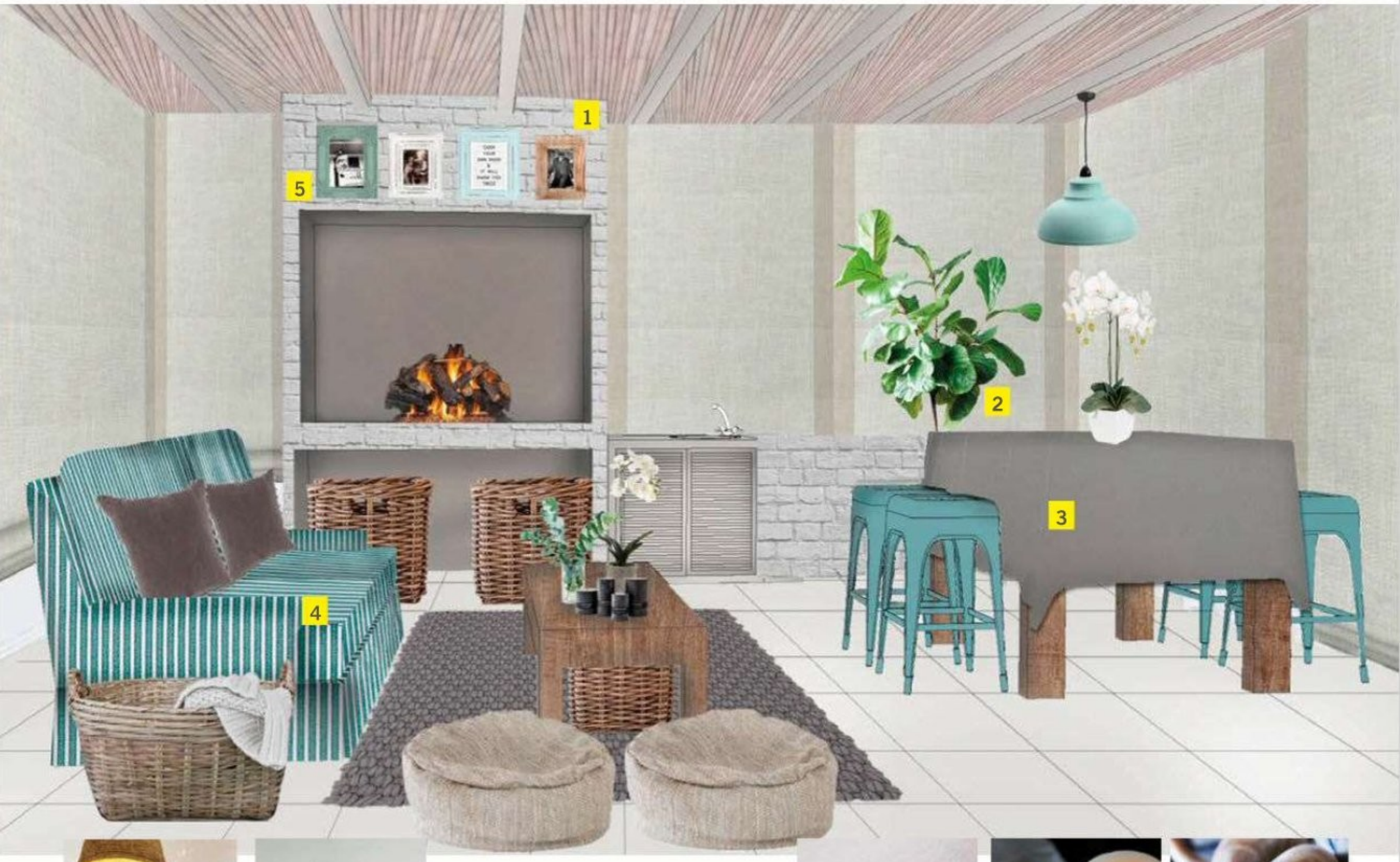
The braai room was added on and enclosed with glass; it's about 30m² in size.

HOW TO

...paint a reed ceiling

Don McWilliam of WeatherPrufe Paints (021 556 4200, weatherprufe.co.za) offers the following advice: due to its uneven surface, painting the ceiling will be tricky and labour intensive. However, there are contractors who spray water-based paints and you could also consider a product such as Rust-Oleum's High Heat Ultra Spray Paint. Alternatively, use a large rough type of brush application such as a white wash brush to get between the reeds.

Interior and photography by Margaux Tait (mylifestyled.co.za) • Sketchup by Kojabu (083 400 6176, kojabu.com)







This is a good example *(left)* of how to display frames in a formal way by keeping the negative spaces between them even. Introducing throws *(right)* for colour, natural elements such as decorative horns for shape and texture, and candles for soft light creates a feminine layered effect. >>







Weekend project

Ensure a non-slip grip on your hammer with Alcolin Silicone Tape.

ALCOLIN PROMOTION







1 Cut the silicone adhesive tape to the length you require; you'll have to estimate but rather make it too long than too short. Alcolin Silicone Tape stretches up to three times its original length. **2** Clean the handle of the hammer and make sure it's dry. Remove the protective plastic from the Silicone Tape and wrap the tape tightly around the handle (as you would for the grip of a racket). **3** Make sure the Silicone Tape overlaps; it is self-fusing so once it's wrapped, it won't come loose.

Did you know? Alcolin Silicone Tape is airtight and watertight, and it's available in different colours. Use it to repair outlet pipes in your bathroom, a leaking garden hose, even the damaged plastic cover of an extension cord.

Visit **www.alcolin.com** for product details or call the Sticky Questions Helpline toll-free on 0800 222 400 for expert advice.

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Email gardens@homemag.co.za

Stash it or trash it?

Step up to the plate

Jennifer Maltby writes **I inherited this large plate; can you tell me whether it's valuable?**





→ **Ian Conn of Ashbey's Galleries replies** This is a Mason's Patent Ironstone China Plate. Mason's Ironstone, a hard-wearing stoneware that imitates the shapes and decoration of 18th century porcelain, was developed in the early 19th century by Miles Mason, a Staffordshire porcelain dealer and manufacturer. Although stoneware, it became the "household china" of the aspiring middle classes who couldn't afford porcelain for everyday use.

CIRCA 19th century **VALUE** R200 – R300



An artwork for auction

Wayne Walsh of Johannesburg writes **An elderly neighbour gave me this oil painting signed James Madge; do you know what it's worth?**



→ **Inge Beck of Ashbey's Galleries replies** Donald James (Don) Madge (1920–1997) was a South African visual artist from Stutterheim. He participated in a number of group exhibitions in SA and one in Australia but, unfortunately, his work doesn't achieve high prices on auction.

VALUE R4 000 – R6 000

CONTACT ashbeysgalleries.co.za



JJ's corner

A pretty creeper

Megan van Wyngaardt of Johannesburg writes **What type of plant is growing around the garage doors on page 35 of your May 2015 issue? Did the homeowners train it as a climber, or did it self-cling to the walls? I ask because climbers are usually a real problem when it comes to paint and plaster.**

→ **JJ replies** It looks like a type of *Vitis* – a wild grape or ornamental grape. Fortunately, *Vitis* species are not a problem because they don't cling to walls; they have tendrils which wind themselves around a structure such as a trellis.



Make a break

Ina Ehlers of Durbanville writes **The bulk of our neighbour's tipuana tree is growing over our property, with the result that almost all of its leaves and yellow flowers end up in our pool. We have cut back the shoots and branches on our side but now it's resprouting quite quickly! Can you suggest something that we can apply to the pruned sections of the branches so that they won't shoot again?**



→ **JJ replies** Unfortunately, nothing like that is available. What you can do immediately is pull off the new shoots as they appear; don't cut them off. The minute you cut them, you promote new growth; if you break them off, you inhibit new growth.

CONTACT JJ van Rensburg is a horticulturist at Garden World in Johannesburg; visit gardenworld.co.za.

RSG 100–104 fm DIS DIE EEN

Listen to JJ's gardening tips and tricks on Derrich Gardner's show *Brekfis met Derrich* at 07:40 every Saturday on RSG.

Mix and Match

The Woodoc Way



Woodoc Water-Borne FLOOR was used to seal the Oregon Pine table. A modern sealer for a modern application that is heat-, cold-, water- and alcohol-resistant. Non-yellowing and has minimal impact on wood colour. Being suitable for floor application, Woodoc Water-Borne FLOOR provides extra durability for tables used without a table cloth. A finish that complements any table setting.

Look for the Tangerine can.



The traditional High-Back chairs were sealed with **Woodoc 10 Velvet Polywax Sealer**. The classic Woodoc Indoor Sealer that gives furniture a warm lustrous look, whilst protecting against alcohol- and water staining as well as heat- and cold marking. The finish feels so good.

Look for the Green tin.

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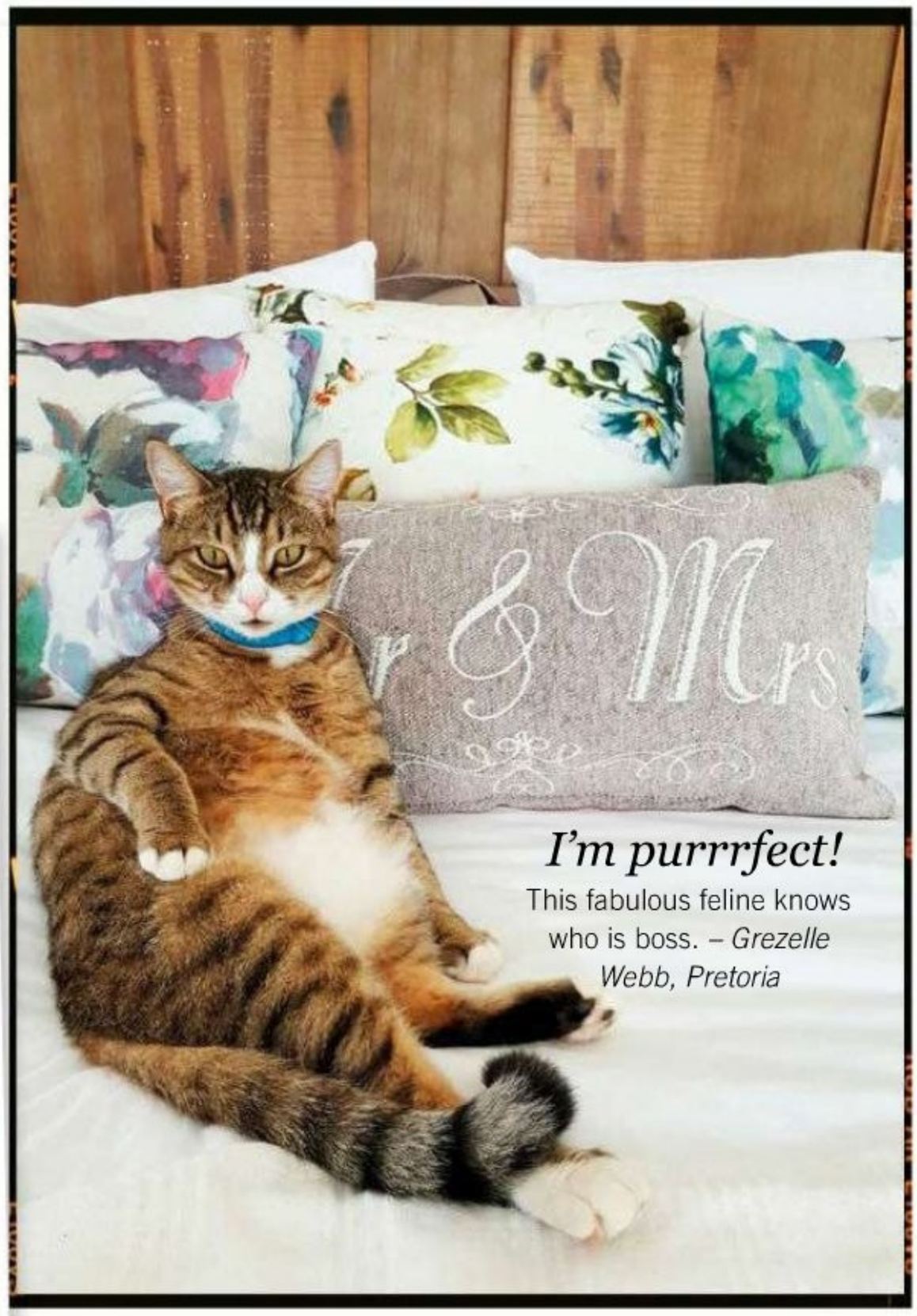
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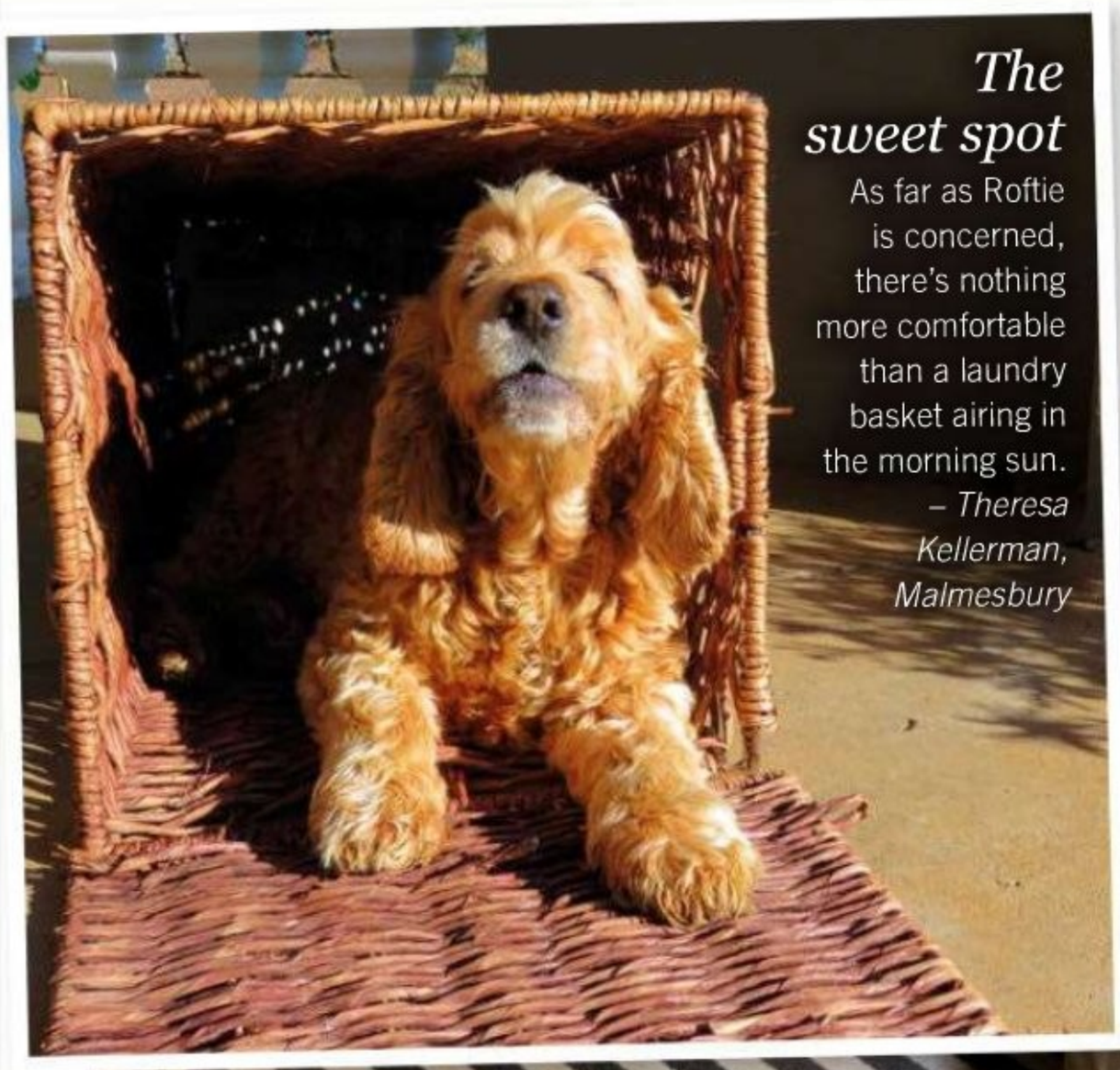
Animal antics

Take a look at these cuties!

Compiled by Beatrice Moore-Nöthnagel (and her beagle, Frodo)



I'm purrrfect!
This fabulous feline knows who is boss. – *Grezelle Webb, Pretoria*



The sweet spot
As far as Roftie is concerned, there's nothing more comfortable than a laundry basket airing in the morning sun. – *Theresa Kellerman, Malmesbury*



On duty Sid the Siamese cat and Willow the dog keep a close eye on Olivia's first attempt at crawling. – *Samantha Futcher, Cape Town*

Hot product

The PetSafe Deluxe Ultrasonic Outdoor Bark Control unit (R1 400, **shingavet.co.za**) teaches your pooch to stop incessant barking. Whenever a dog barks within range of the device, it will hear a high-pitched sound that's inaudible to most humans; the sound stops as soon as the barking stops. Much like a dog whistle, the ultrasonic sound is harmless yet annoying, which reminds the dog to stop barking. >>



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SUPER POWERFUL



NEW Germex 4-in-1 with G-Cide is the only bathroom sanitiser that kills 99.9% of all airborne and toilet seat viruses, bacteria and fungi, while neutralising odours with a gentle fragrance. It's triple the power for the toughest jobs.

EXCLUSIVE TO SPAR

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Q&A

Stress and anxiety

Lana Mayford of Johannesburg writes

I've heard people talking about stressed pets; is that a real thing or are we just projecting our feelings onto our animals?



→ **Dr Guy Fyvie, veterinary advisor at Hill's Pet Nutrition South Africa, replies** It is real; animals can definitely be stressed. Fight or flight is a natural survival mechanism, which becomes problematic when it can't be 'turned off'.

Causes of stress vary but usually entail something that can't be adequately avoided. Common stressors include separation anxiety; lack of stimulation; car travel and loud noises (thunder, fireworks or a vacuum cleaner). Changes to the usual routine – such as a new family member, moving house, holidays, or having guests – can also cause anxiety.

Dogs and cats often manifest stress physically and express it through their behaviour. For example, stressed cats can develop bladder issues and in dogs, stress often goes hand in hand with digestive upsets such as acute diarrhoea.

Other stress signals include excessive grooming, inappropriate toileting, yawning and panting, appetite loss, increased vocalisation (whining, howling or barking/meowing) and changes in behaviour such as becoming withdrawn, aggressive, hyperactive or lethargic. This can also indicate an underlying medical condition; seek veterinary advice.

The most obvious solution is to remove the stressor, but that's often easier said than done. Your vet may prescribe anti-anxiety medication and recommend an animal behaviourist (ideally, medication should be coupled with behaviour therapy for long-term relief). Pheromones, sprayed or diffused in the animal's environment, may also help.

There are special foods available to help reduce anxiety. Hill's Prescription Diet c/d Stress for cats contains L-tryptophan and milk protein hydrolysate and is clinically proven to reduce the recurrence of a common stress condition, Feline Idiopathic Cystitis, by 89%. Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Stress is the first (and only) food to help calm anxious dogs and settle stress-related digestive upsets. Ask your vet for details.

The Stress-O-Meter (**stressometer.co.za**) is also helpful – just answer a few simple questions to ascertain whether or not your dog or cat is taking strain.

CONTACT hillspet.co.za



Blue blood

Charlie is the king of this castle.
– Lilian Pienaar, Vanderbijlpark

Busted!

Emmy and Pepper love to hide under mommy's blanket.
– Leigh-Anne Charlton, Pretoria

A little privacy, please...

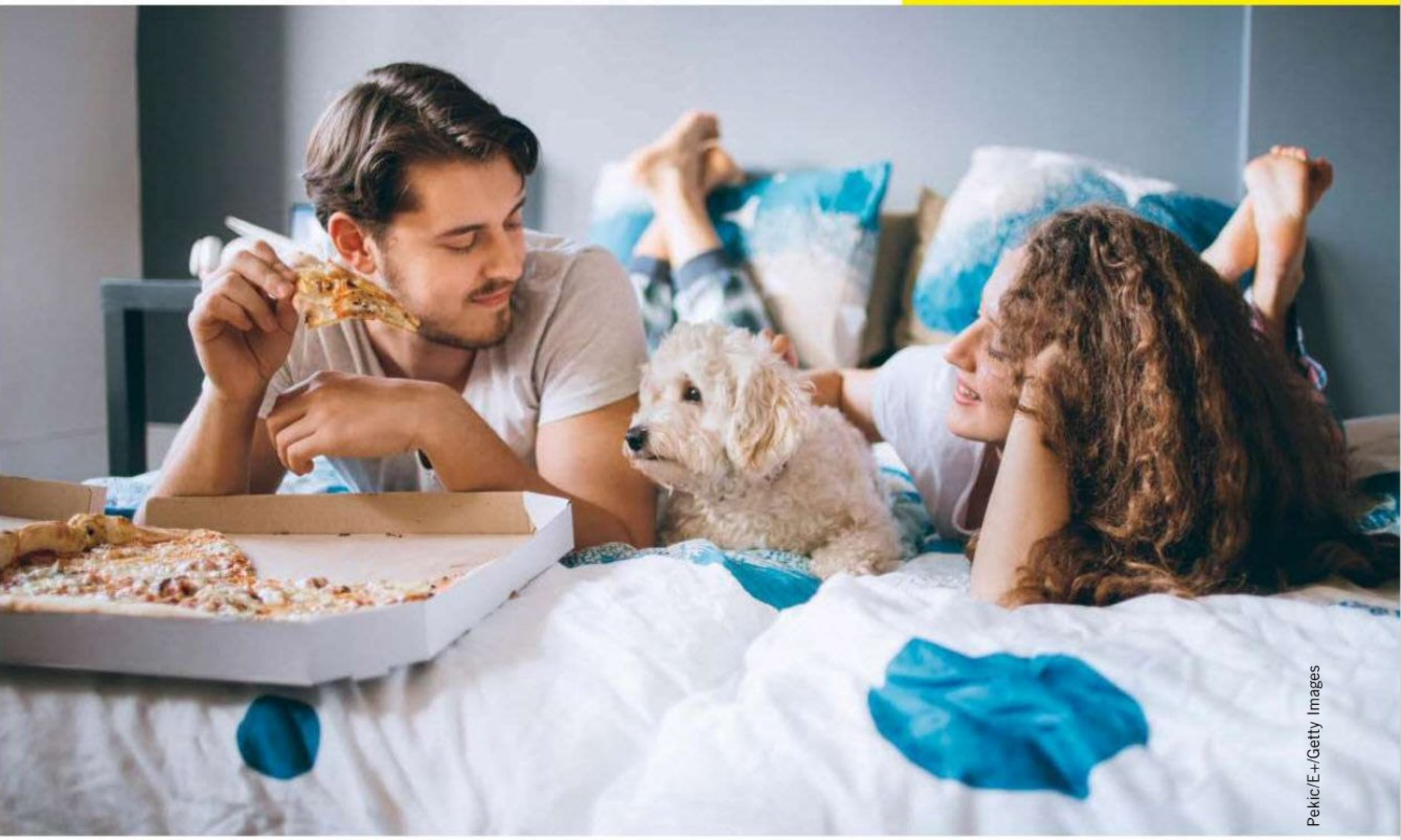
Chelsea found the most comfortable spot in the house.
– Marinda van der Mescht, Centurion

WIN! Each owner whose pet is featured here wins a large Interior Futon for dogs or a Medium Winter Cupcake bed for cats from Wagworld (**wagworld.co.za**). Available from leading vet and pet shops, the new Interior Futon range is stylish and super comfortable – perfect for the posh pooch. The Winter Cupcake bed boasts a new design and is a hit with cats and smaller dogs. Send your pics (at least 2MB each) and contact details to **pets@homemag.co.za** – you could be a winner too! See our competition rules on page 128.

Proudly South African!







Pekic/E+/Getty Images

SLEEP EASY

For superior comfort and peace of mind, invest in the best for your bed with Protect-A-Bed® mattress protectors.

In most of our homes, the bedroom is far more than just a place to rest your weary head. These days, it's also a sociable spot where families get together to watch TV now that the winter months are approaching, where kids snuggle up on lazy weekend mornings, and even pets are welcome!

Purchasing a mattress that will endure this much traffic is an investment – so why not protect yours and extend its lifespan with a mattress protector from Protect-A-Bed®.

As the world's leading mattress protector, Protect-A-Bed® provides a waterproof yet breathable barrier between the sleeper and the mattress, creating a safe and healthy sleeping environment. This means that even the occasional spill won't be a crisis.

The Miracle Membrane™ prevents fluids from penetrating your mattress, keeping it clean for longer and prolonging its lifespan. It's also designed to protect the sleeper from common allergens, dust mites, bacteria, bed bugs and other irritants that may cause you to wake up with a stuffy or runny nose, itchy eyes, a sore throat, coughing, wheezing and sneezing.

Protect-A-Bed® mattress protectors are available from most mattress retailers; go to **protectabed.co.za** to find a supplier in your neighbourhood.

Did you know?

- You spend, on average, a third of your day in bed – this makes your mattress the most used item of furniture in your household.
- The waterproof Miracle Membrane™ can withstand an excess of 200 washes and it can be tumble-dried.
- Most mattress warranties are considered null and void if there is any evidence of spills or stains; Protect-A-Bed® mattress protectors avoid such an eventuality by preventing spills from reaching the mattress in the first place!
- Protect-A-Bed® offers warranties ranging from two to 10 years, depending on the product you choose.



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crossword#102 *Compiled by* **Gerda Engelbrecht**



Free | Half a dozen | Fastener | Cut away | Wild | Go by bike / Seizes | A water-wise shrub

Exercise centre

Bovine / Requests | 16th Greek letter | About

. . . and behold | Utilise | Kiss / Hello (short) | Every-thing

Japanese rice dish / Instruct | Slander / Hectare (symbol) | Inactive | Command / Explode | While

Travel on snow | Definite article / Thou | Can | Carmen, eg / Evaluate

Ferment / Tic | Prizes

Positive answer / Distort | Above | Ocean / Regarding | Trans-gressions / Perform | Take to court | Toy on a string (2-2)

Compact disc (abbr) | Depart | Brave person | Agile

Ceylon, eg / . . . and fro | Choose | Custom / Container | @

Thus | Follow / Very long way (inf) | Farm animal | Cat or dog, eg | Yes (archaic) / Catch

Dais cotinifolia | Either . . . / Not yes | Type of sauce



Vocalise / Bath resort | Took off | Drink | Head covering

Small opening / Primate | Island (abbr) | Rubbish

Fib | Song for a solo voice

Fire residue | Clueless

Photographs Kay Montgomery



WIN! **A Penguin Random House book hamper worth R1 500!**

This month, there's something to tickle everyone's fancy! The little ones will love *Angry Owl Goes Swimming* by Kerryn Ponter and *The Selfish Shongololo* by Vanessa Tedder and illustrated by Shân Fischer. *The Banting Pocket Guide* by Tim Noakes, Bernadine Douglas and Bridget Allan and *Wholesome* by Sarah Graham will appeal to the foodies while *Dead to Me* by Lesley Pearse, *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins and *A Dangerous Crossing* by Rachel Rhys provide the perfect escape. *A Handful of Earth* by Simon Bruinders is the cherry on top.

The reader who sends in the first correctly completed crossword drawn will win a Penguin Random House book hamper worth R1 500; see our competition rules on page 128.

Send the completed crossword, and your details, to *Home* Crossword #102, PO Box 1802, Cape Town, 8000, or scan in your completed crossword and email it to competition@homemag.co.za to reach us by 31 May 2017.

Name ..... Address .....

Postal code ..... Tel. (h) ..... Tel. (w) ..... Email .....

WIN!

Four lucky readers will each win a KitchenAid Mixer worth R9 990.



Featuring 10 speed settings, the durable all-metal mixer comes with a flat beater, wire whip and dough hook.

For almost a century, KitchenAid products have represented the perfect combination of professional performance, artisan quality and iconic design. There can be no denying that fine craftsmanship, durability, quality materials and careful attention to detail continue to be the basis of all KitchenAid machines.

Simply the best appliance brand worldwide, KitchenAid offers once-in-a-lifetime purchases that can be passed down from one generation to the next. For more information, go to **www.kitchenaidafrica.com**.

KitchenAid

HOW TO ENTER

SMS the keyword **KITCHENAID** followed by your full name, physical/postal address and email address to 33406 (each SMS costs R1.50); see competition rules on page 128.

CLOSING DATE 31 May 2017

An old ladder painted a cheerful shade of blue is a great place to display potted plants.

Who lives here?
Hanniki Bruère
WHERE Riebeek-Kasteel
SIZE OF GARDEN 808m²

DREAMY NOOKS AND PRETTY

knick-knacks

Hanniki Bruère of Riebeek-Kasteel has a talent for turning discarded items – even tea sets – into eye-catching garden décor!

By **Marié Esterhuyse** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**

The dainty blooms of gaura dance among the roses in the front garden where Hanniki planted three leopard trees shortly after moving in.

I love the little violas *that always seem to come up between the gravel* – I can't bring myself to pull them out! – *Hanniki*

When we visited Hanniki Bruère to photograph her beautiful home and guesthouse – The Victorian Cow in Riebeek-Kasteel – in October 2014, we made a mental note: her garden was definitely worth sharing with our readers too – it just needed some time to grow.

Today, it's more gorgeous than ever, and it's not just the plants that make this garden so lovely: repurposed vintage prams, baby baths, broken chairs and even an old road sign have all found a spot here.

"I love decorating and collecting pretty things," Hanniki says. "In my garden, every nook must look special. Even the back garden has been adorned with sentimental items. One of them is a pink polka-dot cup that contains a little plant my grandson Ethan chose for me when he was seven years old."

When Hanniki moved in six years ago, there wasn't much in the garden – only an impressive oak tree, a giant eucalyptus, a few neglected shrubs, a syringa tree and a wild olive. With a clear vision in mind, Hanniki set about designing her garden. Because she didn't own a lawnmower, planting grass wasn't an option – instead, she wanted beds for more flowers and nooks for knick-knacks. The wild olive was removed because it hindered her view of the Kasteelberg mountains and the oak tree became the focal point in her garden. The wild olive was replaced by a cement table and it is here that Hanniki sets out her tea cups.

"My starting point was to plant white 'Iceberg' roses and lavender on the pavement and three leopard trees in the front garden. Half of the roses and lavender withered away under the oak tree, so I moved them to a sunnier part of the garden. I quickly learned that if plants don't thrive in a certain spot, take them out or transplant them. It's a good idea to take a step back and view your garden as a whole. If you're not happy with the way it looks, change it until you are. Preferably, add more plants and garden décor – that's what I do!

"My garden and all its adornments give me endless pleasure. I'm passionate about inspiring others to rediscover their love of gardening and to use what they have to decorate their homes and gardens."

The stepping stone beneath the ornate garden arch is inscribed with the words "The world is a garden, love makes it grow".



GARDEN ARCHES

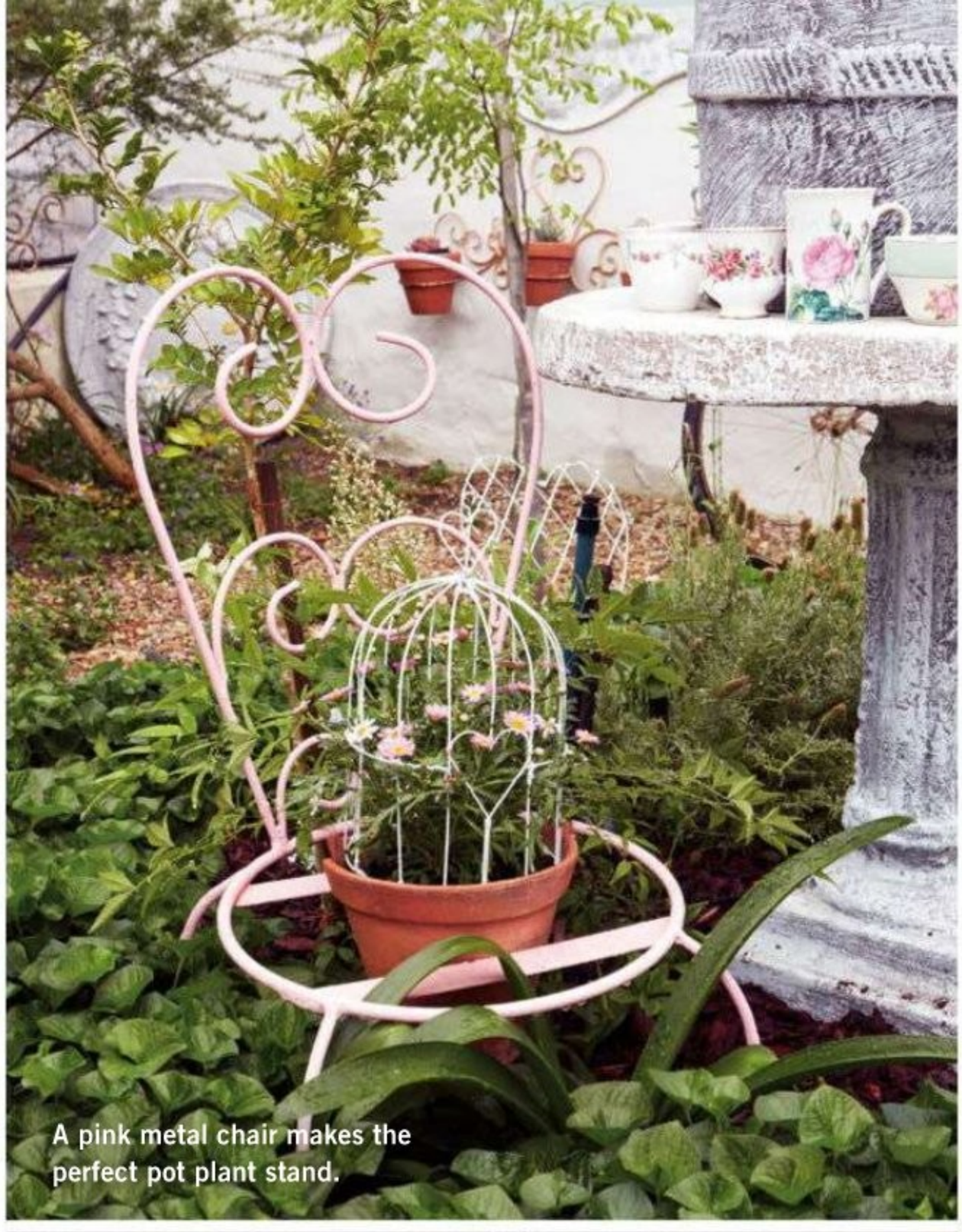
Hanniki adds height and a romantic atmosphere to her garden with arches. She also uses them to link the various garden rooms. This rusted arch (*above*) has moved with her since she lived in Pretoria. Star jasmine planted in pots at the foot of the arch softens the structure; this climbing plant, as well as roses such as 'Blossom Magic', 'Cécile Brünner' and 'Isidingo', are her favourite climbers for arches. All three of these roses are fast growers that will provide endless pleasure.

AT GROUND LEVEL

Hanniki loves gravel and uses it throughout her garden. It's cheaper than paving and more waterwise than lawn. "Initially, after the additions to my house had been completed, I just had bare soil and building sand here. In winter, I literally sank into the ground and it was then that I realised I'd better start putting down some gravel! Apart from being an affordable, practical solution, it is also a wonderful way to demarcate pathways and flowerbeds. The gravel is raked once a week to keep it neat and to get rid of all the fallen flowers and leaves. When it gets too sparse, we add more stones. If it gets too thick in those areas where there is little foot traffic, we simply rake some away." >>



Hanniki is an avid collector – this wire bunny is just one of her many finds.



A pink metal chair makes the perfect pot plant stand.

Repurpose!

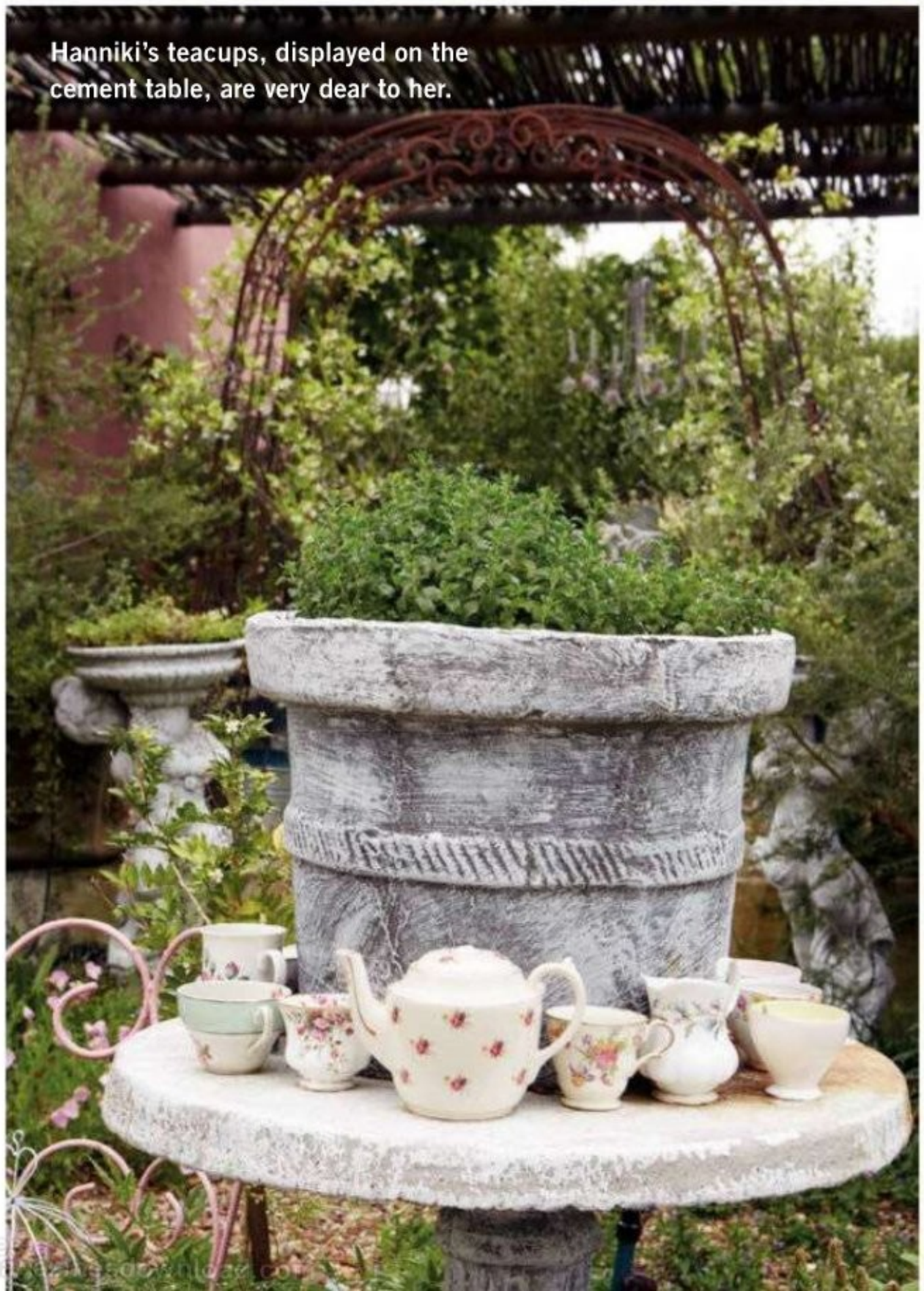
Hanniki says she always finds a gap for things that other people have thrown away and loves giving old items a new lease on life. "It's fun to repurpose so-called useless items and it makes the garden interesting when you use them in a different way. It creates a wonderful focal point and always draws the eye!"

One such element is an old pram (*opposite*) on which the signboard for her former tea garden used to hang. "Today, it is used in my garden as a stand for a pink baby bath filled with some of my favourite annuals.

"Think carefully about how you use each décor element. For example, this display would not have worked as well if I'd placed my old wheelbarrow next to the pram – it would have spoilt the effect."

Other items that have been repurposed in Hanniki's garden include beautiful metal chairs (despite having no seats) and a bicycle that long ago gave up the ghost.

"In the old days, I'd get upset if a cup or plate broke or cracked, but now I know I can always do something with them. Because all my friends are well aware of the fact that I love drinking tea from beautiful china teacups, I often get them as gifts. If they're cracked, they are hung in trees, tied to the iron bed in the garden or displayed on my cement table. One of my biggest failings is that I believe 'more is more'. I will always find a spot for more things! To add even more interest to the teacups, I plant them up with pretty annuals. But remember that they will need very little water as there are no drainage holes in the cups."



Hanniki's teacups, displayed on the cement table, are very dear to her.

Find more issues

Hanniki's garden décor tips

Decide on a theme and use it throughout your garden, she says. "Repeat décor elements or choose one or two colours for coating accessories and use them consistently."

1 Get creative and keep your eyes open for things that you can repurpose – like the pink pram Hanniki used in her front garden.

2 An old stop sign that had been lying on the pavement for quite a while was coated with craft paint and adorned with a picture Hanniki copied off a piece of embroidery fabric.

3 Everyone's taste differs. Use items you are drawn to and that have sentimental value. Hanniki bought the David bust and its plinth with money her mom gave her; it has a special place in her heart.

4 Use colours that go together, such as these *Crassula* flowers which have been placed against a wall painted in a matching shade.

5 The items you display must be striking and unusual. Look for things that complement each other and group them together. This eye-catching display is just outside Hanniki's kitchen door. >>

> I put out ornamental bowls, *enamel dishes and even cracked glasses* to catch rainwater, which I then use as needed.
> – *Hanniki*





Hanniki's gardening tips

- Know your taste and style of gardening – and stick to it.
- Make a list of plants you cannot do without and plant them all!
- Draw a rough sketch to indicate, more or less, what and where you wish to plant.
- Don't be afraid to make changes and try something new.
- Be generous with cuttings and plants. By exchanging plants with friends, you'll save a lot of money – and it's such fun!
- Use water sparingly. I made my beds smaller and put down more gravel. I also removed some of my roses and replaced them with perennial vygies.
- Be passionate about your garden and you'll soon reap the rewards of your efforts!

10 FAVOURITE PLANTS *(But I have many more, says Hanniki!)*

- Roses – especially pink, highly scented ones. I can't imagine a garden without 'Dainty Bess', 'Double Delight', 'Cécile Brünner', 'Blossom Magic', 'Isidingo', 'French Panarosa' and 'Gülilah'. White 'Iceberg' roses are a wonderful asset and flower prolifically.
- Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascena*)
- Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*)
- Busy Lizzy (*Impatients walleriana*)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)
- Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
- Evening primrose (*Oenothera berlandieri 'Ballerina'*) which spreads so easily
- Orange jasmine (*Murraya exotica*)
- *Duranta erecta* 'Sapphire Showers'
- Leopard tree (*Caesalpinia ferrea*)



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I need to be surrounded by a garden *where I can dream and potter* to my heart's content.
– *Hanniki*

CONTACT
The Victorian Cow thevictoriancow.com



Marié Esterhuyse

SPECKLED *stunner!*

Don't judge this flower by its delicate appearance – it's much tougher than it looks.

By **Marié Esterhuyse**
Photographs **Francois Oberholster**

Toad lilies (*Tricyrtis hirta* and *T. formosana*) closely resemble orchids with their exquisite, exotic-looking flowers but don't be fooled by their dainty appearance. They are hardy plants that occur naturally in Asia, including the woodlands of the Philippines, Japan and the Himalayas.

Toad lilies bloom from late summer into autumn on thin stems carried above the foliage. Their white or off-white flowers are covered with hundreds of small dark purple or maroon speckles. These plants are not difficult to cultivate and although the stems grow quite tall, it's not necessary to stake them. Toad lilies are perfect for damp, shady spots in compost-rich soil. In cooler regions, they can cope with morning sun.

It's important that the plant never dries out, but the soil also shouldn't be soggy – make sure it is kept moist. Sprinkle a layer of mulch around the roots to retain moisture and provide the plant with shelter from the wind. Cut back the entire plant – flower stalks as well as leaves – right down to the ground in late winter; it will resprout. Toad lilies seldom need to be divided but if you want to propagate more plants, divide them in spring. The new plants should bear flowers the following summer.

Toad lilies make a wonderful display in pots in a shady corner. Good companion plants include ferns, *Helleborus, Hosta, Plectranthus* and Japanese anemones.

Plant guide

Botanical name *Tricyrtis hirta* and *T. formosana*
Common name Toad lily
✔ **Shade** ✔ **Plenty of water**
✔ **Frost-resistant** ✔ **Perennial**
✔ **Grows 60cm to 1m tall**
✔ **Good cut flower**

Sources
chicagobotanic.org;
weekendgardener.net

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Fake it
TILL YOU MAKE IT

If you want to save water but love a lawn, consider this clever and convenient artificial option.

By **Carissa Govender** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**

With most of South Africa in the grip of a severe drought, sprawling lawns have become a headache for many households – you need a lot of water and patience to keep your grass green.

If you're set on the lush look of a rolling green lawn, and the soft springiness it provides underfoot, consider installing artificial grass. No longer just for golf courses and soccer pitches, and with an increasing variety of realistic looking artificial grass on the market, more and more residential homeowners are making the change.

We checked in with two homeowners and a few experts to give you the best advice…

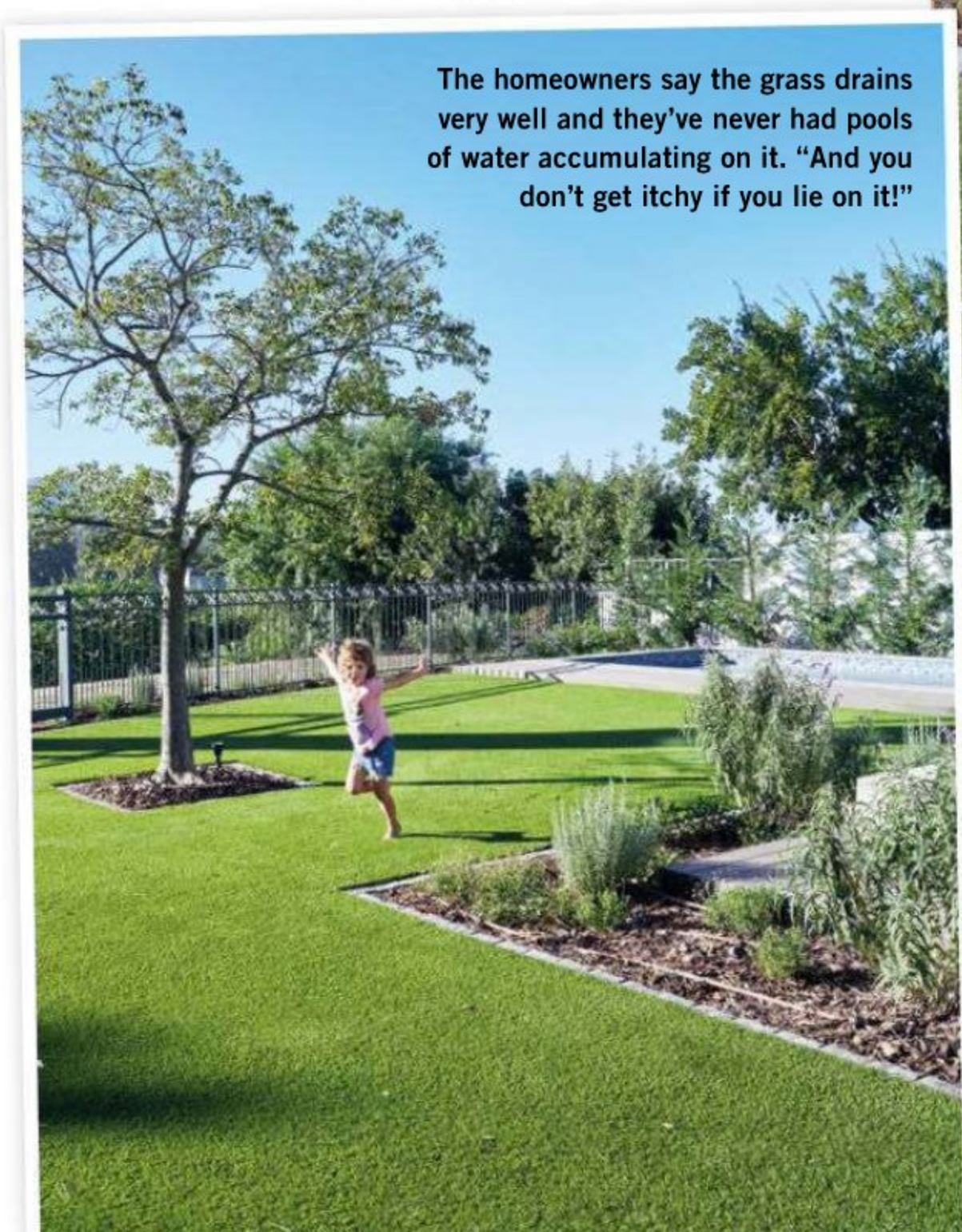
Case study #1

In this garden in Val De Vie in Paarl, artificial grass was installed as soon as the house was built in November last year. It wasn't the first time the homeowners had opted for artificial lawn and once again they approached Herve Truniger of Easigrass to assist.

"In their previous home, artificial grass was used to replace a section of lawn that was always muddy in winter and patchy in summer because it was in the shade. The children loved to play on the artificial lawn and from a maintenance point of view it was a real pleasure," Herve explains.

In their new home, the family wanted to create a waterwise garden while maintaining the aesthetic of rolling green lawns. "Now the garden still looks lush and green despite them not being able to water it."

With two children under the age of four as well as two dogs and cats, the artificial lawn is a winner. Because it has been laid on a hard compacted bed of crusher dust, it provides a stable surface on which the kids can play, happily and safely.



The homeowners say the grass drains very well and they've never had pools of water accumulating on it. "And you don't get itchy if you lie on it!"







The installation of this low-maintenance lawn took two days; all it requires is raking every other week.

Did you know?

- Artificial grass can be installed in a variety of shades of green with some brands offering different blade lengths, ranging from 8mm to 50mm. Other brands, such as the Easi-Kensington range from Easigrass, also have a shorter dead grass infill between the greener grass blades to make it look even more realistic.
- The base of the grass has drainage holes so the lawn doesn't become waterlogged in the event of heavy rains. This makes it an excellent choice for patios, decks, balconies and rooftop gardens where the water would run off according to the slope of the surface area.
- In terms of safety and hygiene, soft artificial grass works well in play areas, as the grass doesn't stain or get muddy. "The grass carpet itself is anti-allergenic, so it's perfectly safe for children and pets," explains Ayden Shrives, product manager for artificial turf (Duraturf) at Belgotex Floors.
- Quality artificial grass is non-abrasive. While the uneven surface of most conventional lawns can pose a safety hazard for kids, the surface area on artificial grass is compacted and stable underfoot, says project manager at Perfect Grass, Nikita Young.
- Good-quality artificial grass won't fade in the harsh South African sun, nor will the colour wash out. Check the warranty with your supplier and make sure the grass is coated against harmful UV rays.

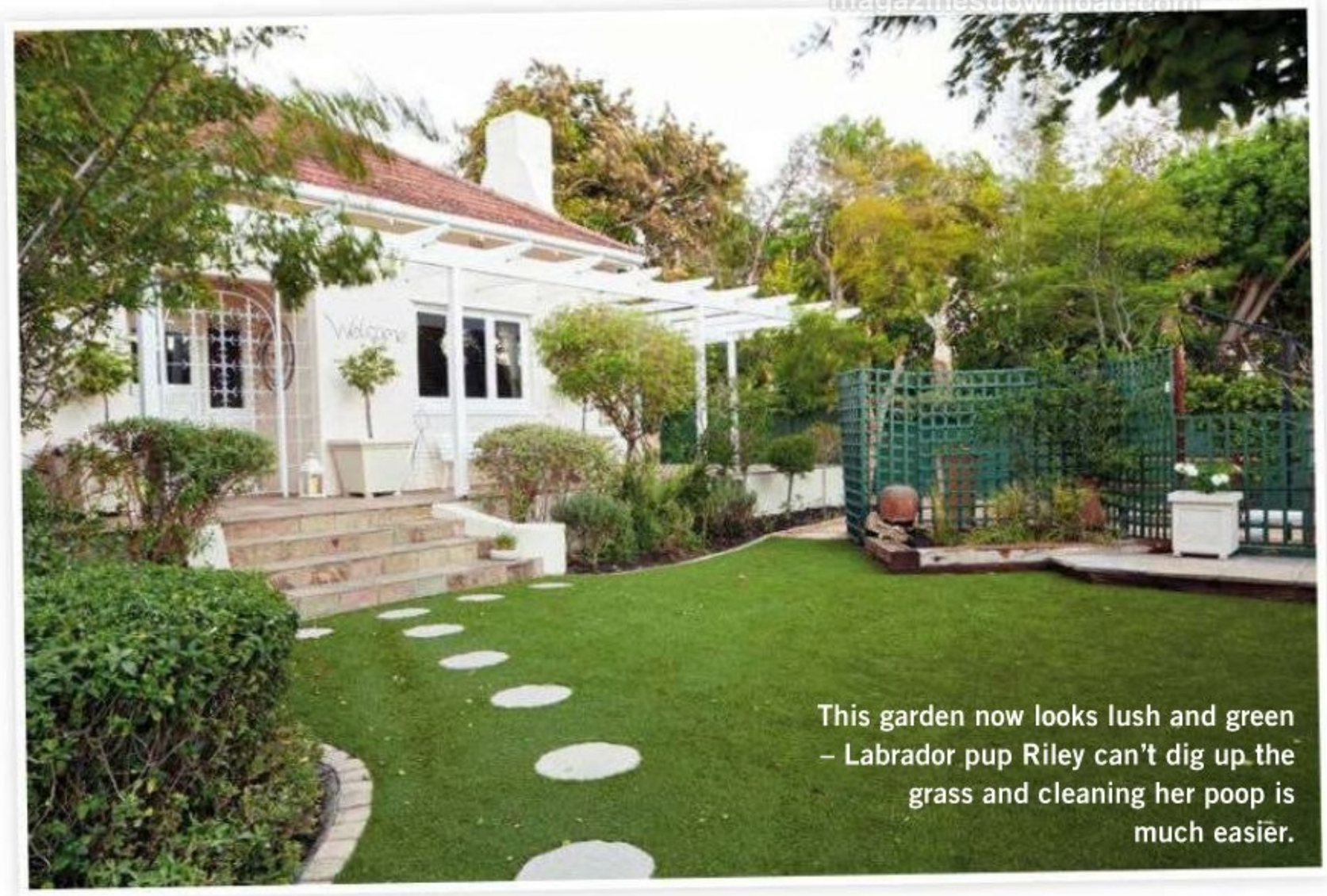
[MAINTENANCE]

"Artificial grass has many advantages," says Herve Truniger of Easigrass Cape Town. "Not least of which is playing with your kids or entertaining guests in the garden instead of mowing and weeding."

Any leaves can be raked up as normal and a build-up of dirt or dust can easily be hosed off. Some flattening may occur in high-traffic areas or from heavy items on the grass, but this can easily be fixed by brushing the grass against the direction of the pile to restore the blades to an upright position, explains Ayden Shrives of Duraturf.

However, some care must be taken. "Fire and related activities such as braaiing can melt the carpet and sharp instruments can also damage the surface," says Ayden. >>

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This garden now looks lush and green – Labrador pup Riley can't dig up the grass and cleaning her poop is much easier.

Case study #2

Luck was on their side when Simon and Paula Riley of Cape Town bought their home five years ago: the previous owner was a landscaper, so the garden was in good condition overall with most of the design work already in place.

But the natural lawn, a mixture of kikuyu and buffalo grass, was something they struggled with during winter, especially since the trees in the garden create a lot of shade. With water restrictions being imposed, the lawn would soon have turned brown and possibly died, so the Rileys decided to install artificial grass just before Christmas 2016.

"We were expecting lots of family and visitors over the holidays and wanted the garden, which is a key entertainment area, to look its best," says Simon.

Uncertain of the outcome, the couple decided to do the work in two stages, starting with the back garden. "That section of the garden is very private, so it wouldn't have been a total disaster if the installation of the artificial grass didn't work out well," explains Simon.

While they got quotes from several companies, the couple say that the professionalism of Perfect Grass and the personal attention they received from them sealed the deal.

Other than clearing the old grass, there wasn't too much work to be done. Stepping stones that lead from the front gate to the front door were already in place, so the Rileys simply had the artificial lawn laid around them. "We chose a longer version of the grass with a mixture of colours and shades that would look more natural," says Simon.

With less garden upkeep to worry about, the Rileys are free to spend more time enjoying their outdoor space. "We love our almost maintenance-free garden – there's no need to stress about watering, cutting or fertilising. The lawnmower is gathering dust in the garage; we just use a garden vacuum to clear the leaves," Simon explains.

As an alternative...

A less permanent but cheaper solution for brown lawns is to spray-paint the grass. The paint is made from organic ground pigments and contains a UV protectant that helps guard against harsh sunlight. "It also contains a revolutionary breathable membrane which allows the grass to continue to photosynthesise," explains Adele Kleinhans, co-founder of Lawncoat, a local lawn paint company. The paint is mixed with water according to the shade of green required. "It works out to just more than R3 per square metre. And it is 100% ecofriendly – dogs and bunnies can even eat it."

Depending on temperature and sunlight, it can take up to three hours for the sprayed area to dry, after which the paint will not stain feet. "You can walk over it and water it, and it won't wash off when it rains," says landscaper JC Moolman.





[FAST FACTS]

- Synthetic grass can mostly be installed in a day. The ground is prepared with a grit sand base as well as a weed barrier to prevent seeds from penetrating. Once the grass is laid, it is covered with a silica sand infill to ensure stability. To keep it from lifting on the edges, it can be glued to a cement border. If there's a solid base, the entire area is glued to the base.
- The cost of installing artificial grass is influenced by various factors – the cost of the grass itself makes up only about 10% of the bill. Removing a layer of the existing earth where the lawn will be laid, carting away any waste, preparing a grit sand base, fitting a weed barrier and adding a silica infill makes this kind of installation a pricey investment, although you will save on the maintenance associated with a real lawn in the long run. It's best to get a quote for your needs, as it might differ hugely from home to home.
- It cannot be installed over existing grass, as the grass underneath will die, creating an uneven surface.
- Warranties vary from five to eight years, but the grass can last for up to 15 years in domestic installations.
- Pet poop can be scooped up as usual, and the area can be washed with water for hygienic purposes.
- Artificial grass can be considered ecofriendly as it requires no pesticides which pollute the earth's water supply. In some cases, plastic bottles are recycled to manufacture artificial grass.
- Synthetic grass can become hot in direct sunlight, much like a wooden deck or concrete. In summer, a sprinkling of water will keep the sand infill cool and lower the temperature of the grass.

Tip Save an offcut of the grass you install so that if it gets damaged, you can replace it easily.

STOCKISTS Duraturf (Belgotex) 033 897 7500, duraturfsa.co.za **Easigrass** 087 550 7486, easigrass.com/za **Lawncoat** 082 839 3853, lawncoat.co.za **Perfect Grass** 021 554 4078, perfectgrass.co.za **Shen Mi Yuan Garden Design** (JC Moolman) 084 807 3577, shenmiyuan.co.za





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Garden diary

This Mother's Day, buy a hamper of spring-flowering seeds and bulbs for a gift that keeps on giving.

Compiled by Gillian Eva • Photographs: Francois Oberholster and supplied

Tip of the month
With all the fallen autumn leaves available, now is the perfect time to start a compost heap; add garden clippings and kitchen scraps to make your own organic compost.

Tasks for May

By Kay Montgomery

1 *Keep it colourful*

In mild winter regions, you can still sow seed of alyssum, candytuft, linaria, California poppy, *Gaillardia*, Namaqualand daisy, snapdragon, sweet peas and Virginian stock. In cold regions, it would be better to purchase trays of seedlings.

Pastel colours suit small gardens; they create an illusion of more space and add greater depth to a shallow border.

Calendula, poppy and nemesia are warm and welcoming for an entrance and on the patio; ornamental kale in white, pink and purple makes a good subject for pots or mass plantings.

Fill rockery pockets with brightly-coloured gazania and arctotis, the glistening flowers of vygies, and indigenous bulbs of babiana, freesia, ixia, lachenalia, sparaxis and tritonia.

Line a flight of steps with pots of showy regal pelargoniums, which have gorgeous trumpet-shaped blooms. *Pelargonium peltatum* with ivy-shaped leaves and flowers in white, pink, red or purple is ideal for window boxes and hanging baskets, but is also useful over low fences and a trellis.

Plant clusters and blocks of colour for maximum effect, such as a bright ribbon of red, orange, purple and yellow ranunculi, or a carpet of multi-coloured pansies along a pathway; otherwise, turn a shady part of the garden into a fairyland of white, mauve and purple with fairy primula (*Primula malacoides*).



This month ...

• In the summer rainfall region, keep all plants well mulched and water regularly. After the first winter rains in the Western Cape, the soil is perfect for planting fynbos such as restios, proteas, ericas and leucadendrons. Do not cultivate around the fine surface roots of fynbos.
• In cold gardens, no major cutting back of shrubs should be done, as tender new growth is easily damaged by cold winds and frost. Cover tender plants with a commercial frost cover.
• Water camellias, gardenias and azaleas regularly and spread a generous layer of mulch around the roots, keeping away from the stem.
• Keep citrus trees producing fruit by spreading fertiliser around the trees, keeping away from the trunk. Water in thoroughly.
• Move indoor pot plants away from windows and electric heaters. Mist leaves, and stand pots on pebbles in a drip tray filled with water to increase humidity.



Lachenalia



2 *Ecofriendly gardens*

International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated on 22 May. In a natural ecosystem, there is a diverse range of plants and we can echo this by growing a wide variety in our gardens. Choose indigenous plants wherever possible as they have adapted to local conditions, and remove invasive plants to provide space for desirable plants (*see 'Know your invasives' on the next page*).

Attract wildlife such as chameleons and other small creatures by providing habitats, food and water. Plant trees and hedges as homes and shelter for birds and insects, and include a wildlife-friendly pond for frogs and dragonflies.

Entice pollinators into your garden by growing flowers that produce nectar and pollen, especially those indigenous to your area. No chemicals or harmful sprays should be used in this garden, ensuring a safe habitat for wildlife.

3 *Plant an aloe*

If you want brilliant colour in your garden this winter as well as visits from sunbirds, plant aloes. Their bold form and brightly-coloured candelabras of flowers are most effective in natural and indigenous gardens, on sunny slopes and among weathered rocks. With growth habits ranging from stemless to medium and large, many of the new aloe cultivars have been bred for extended flowering and cold-tolerance. Suitable for small gardens and pots are 'Bush Baby Yellow', 'Little Lemon', 'Maggie's Magic', 'Candy Floss', 'Guinea Fowl', 'Harlequin' and 'Winter Bells'. If you have the space, plant medium-height 'Berry Sorbet', 'Colour Burst', 'Diana', 'Habanero' and 'Power Pink'. >>

Photograph Gillian Eva

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Send garden info to gardens@homemag.co.za.

Know your invasive plants

NEW *Each month, we'll feature a plant that has become invasive in South Africa – you might even recognise one from your garden or in the neighbourhood.*



Cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) is a highly invasive climber that attaches itself to a tree, shrub or fence and will then cover the host plant. If there is nothing in close proximity to climb, it will travel along the ground until it finds something. It is evergreen and has cat-like claws that attach themselves to almost any surface and are very difficult to dislodge. It bears yellow trumpet-shaped flowers from September to February. The fruit is a flat leathery capsule that splits open when ripe, releasing papery winged seeds that are carried off by the wind.

Invasive status

It's a Category 1b invasive plant, which means that it must be removed from your property to avoid prosecution.

Why is it a problem?

Cat's claw creeper outcompetes our indigenous vegetation and can also damage trees to such an extent that they could fall down. For more information, go to **invasives.org.za**.

Source Hillcrest Conservancy

Herb of the month

Bulbinella

(Bulbine frutescens)

Every home garden should have a clump of *Bulbine frutescens*, commonly known as bulbinella. The leaf sap from this indigenous succulent is a gentle first-aid remedy for healing skin wounds and irritations.

How to grow Plant in rockeries, in dry areas and in dry shade under trees; in fact, it can be planted almost anywhere. It needs very little water, is heat- and frost-tolerant, and produces decorative yellow or orange flower spikes off and on all year round. It occurs naturally in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, and in parts of all the Cape provinces.

Tip of the month Use it as a groundcover, and plant *en masse* alongside purple-flowering wild garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*) in well-drained, composted soil.

Common problems These plants can become top-heavy and need to be planted quite deep so they won't fall over to one side.

Did you know? The leaf sap from bulbinella can be used in shampoo as a moisturiser.

Uses Crush the leaf softly between your fingers and squeeze the clear sap out directly onto the skin to treat wounds, burns, rashes, itches, ringworm, cracked lips, herpes, cuts, boils, eczema, mosquito bites, cold sores and acne. Apply topically as often as needed.

CONTACT healthyliving-herbs.co.za

Indoor plant of the month

Cyclamen

Cyclamen persicum makes its appearance in stores in May, just in time for Mother's Day! With blooms like butterfly wings above heart-shaped leaves, this indoor plant is a real showstopper. It's a mountain flower from Turkey that grows and flowers under the snow, so it does best in a cool room but with good light. It's a rewarding patio or courtyard plant too, especially when displayed in large groups.

Cyclamen comes in many colours, so you will always be able to find one that suits your living areas. Try grouping several plants together in a large glass pot or in a big bowl. Keep the soil moist but don't over-water as the plant rots easily.



Visit ludwigsroses.co.za and send queries to gardens@homemag.co.za.



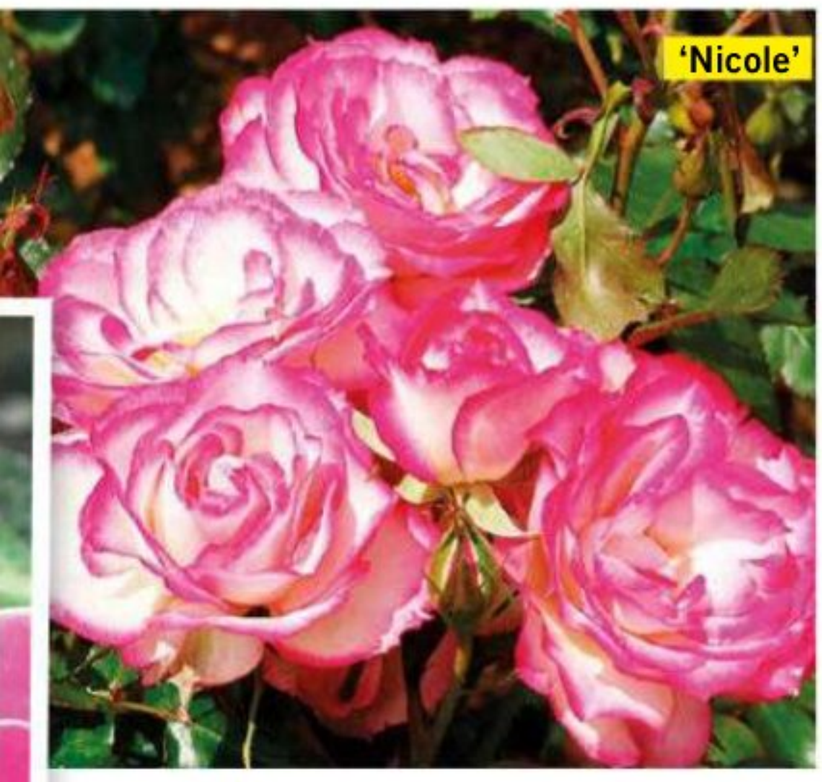
Ludwig's rose corner

Rose guru Ludwig Taschner advises on how to control a scale infestation on your roses.


'Germiston Gold'

Q: My standard 'Germiston Gold' roses are not performing as well as they used to; are they a casualty of the drought?

→ Standard roses are somewhat artificial with the bud union completely exposed on a 1m-high stem, unlike a normal bush rose where the bud union is kept fresh by the surrounding soil. The water and nutrients need to go up a long, relatively narrow stem to the crown, then the sap with sugar needs to take the same long journey down narrow tubes to the roots. So, yes, it is likely that the hot and dry summer will have put extra strain on your standard roses.


'Nicole'

Q: My floribunda rose 'Nicole' has lost some of its leaves; will fertilising help to encourage new leaves?

→ In May, rose bushes that are more or less defoliated will not benefit from fertiliser. It might force them to sprout, but such new shoots will likely all be blind. Flower bud formation during the growing season cannot happen without leaves making the necessary food and hormones.

Proud of your garden? Send your pics to editor@homemag.co.za – we'd love to see them!

Rose tasks by region

Summer rainfall Reduce watering to encourage roses to become dormant; stop fertilising. If aphids are very active, drench the soil around the roses with Koinor. If your roses are still full of leaves and flowering, continue to protect them from black spot. Spray fortnightly with Chronos or Rose Protector.

Cape coastal Diseases such as black spot, powdery mildew, rust and downy mildew become far more prolific in cool weather. If the rains have arrived, protect new growth from black spot, rust and downy mildew by spraying fortnightly with Chronos or Rose Protector. If the rains haven't arrived, there's no need to spray; continue using grey water on the plants.

Lowveld and KwaZulu-Natal coast Carry on with the normal maintenance of watering and spraying (Ludwig's Insect Spray and Chronos) and fertilise with Vigorosa. To control severe infestations of aphids, drench the soil around the rose with Koinor. Water deeply twice a week.

Scale problems on roses

Roses are not often infested by scale insects but an infestation can be exacerbated by hot, dry conditions.

Types of scale

Scale insects, just like spider mites, bide their time on the lower part of the bushes, puncturing the phloem tubes for food. Female scales can live up to a year. The mother provides a protective scale for the little ones that hatch from the eggs within days and crawl out to do their own puncturing, scale-building and egg-laying. They will even lay over the scale of the mother. Eventually, with no more space available and little food, they move up the stem. The same principle applies to the Australian bug also known as cottony cushion or fluted scale. The female has a large, white fluted egg sac attached which contains many bright red eggs. The young are extremely active tiny crawlers.

How to control scale

- Heavily infected stems that seem to be dying anyway are best cut out of the bush and removed.
- Insecticide spray is only effective on the crawlers before they have made their scale or woolly sac. Spray with a horticultural oil such as Ludwig's Insect Spray or organicide at double the recommended strength. It has a suffocating action that will kill the mothers and unprotected crawlers.
- Improve the sap flow by getting more water to the roots. Also, make sure the soil is well aerated so that the roots can become more active.

Tip Since winter pruning time is almost around the corner and many of the infected parts will be cut off in any case, there is no urgency to get on top of this problem right now – unless you are in coastal KZN and expect your roses to keep on flowering.



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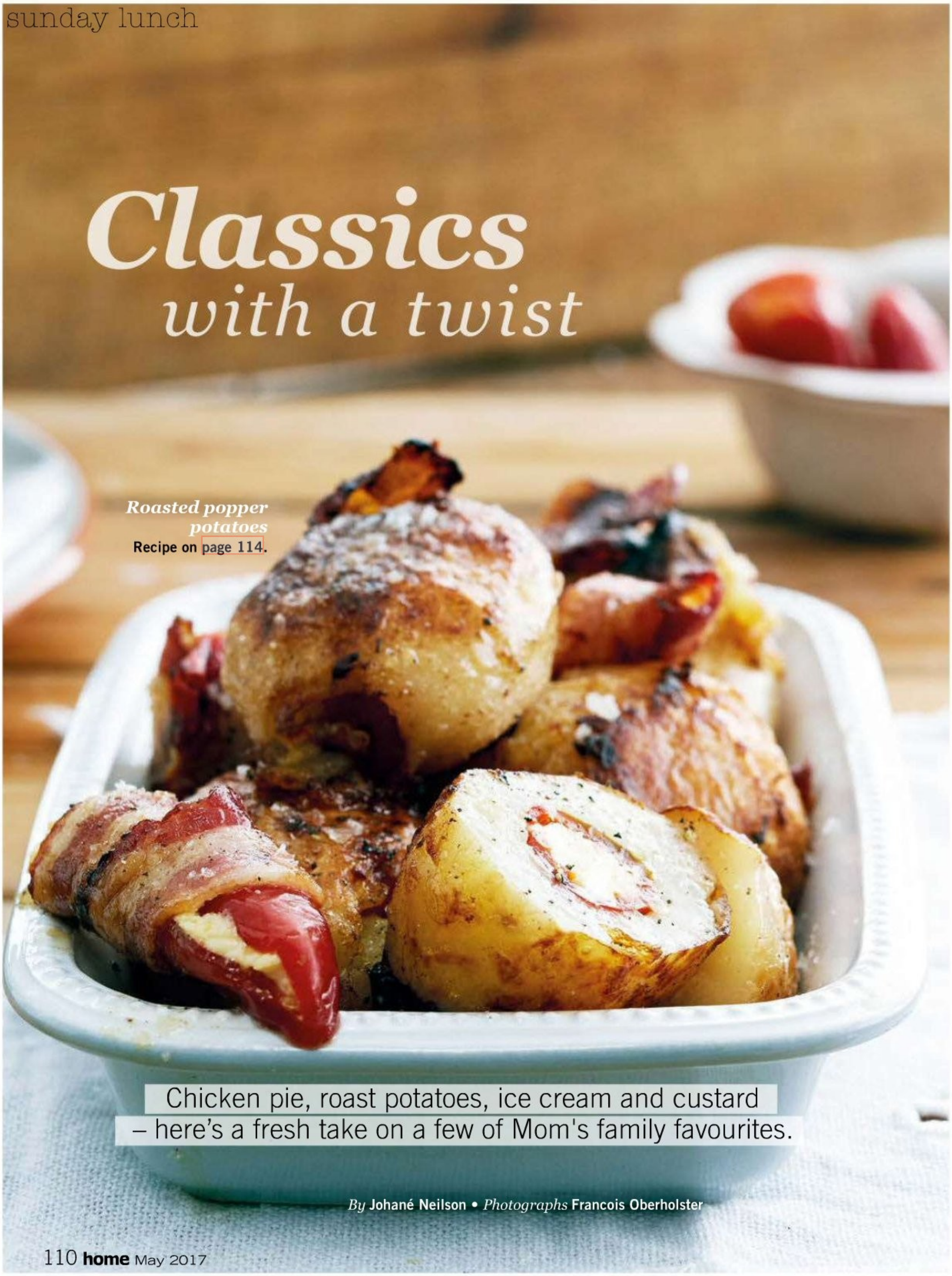
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Classics with a twist



Roasted popper potatoes
Recipe on page 114.

Chicken pie, roast potatoes, ice cream and custard – here's a fresh take on a few of Mom's family favourites.

By **Johané Neilson** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**

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Bacon and chicken pie

Recipe on page 114.

Accessories from Woolworths (0860 022 002, woolworths.co.za)





Chicken in milk

It's the simplicity of the recipe that makes this melt-in-the-mouth chicken so special.

Serves 4–6
Preparation time: 20 minutes
Cooking time: 1 hour, 20 minutes
Oven temperature: 160 °C

- **1 whole chicken**
- **sea salt flakes**
- **1 lemon, quartered**
- **3 sprigs thyme**
- **30ml olive oil**
- **500ml milk**
- **4 bay leaves**
- **5ml whole peppercorns**
- **2 tins white beans, drained**

1 Season the chicken generously with salt and place the lemon and thyme in the cavity. Fry the chicken gently in a little olive oil until brown all over and then place it, breast-side up, in a deep ovenproof dish with a lid. Pour the milk over and add the bay leaves and peppercorns; cover and bake for about 45 minutes.
2 Stir in the beans and baste the chicken with the sauce. Bake uncovered for a further 25–35 minutes until golden.



Deluxe cheese and garlic loaf

A garlic loaf that's more than just an afterthought!

Using a sharp bread knife, cut **2 soft rye loaves** (avoid pure rye as it's too dense for this recipe) into squares without slicing through the base. Mix 10 finely-chopped **garlic cloves**, a handful of finely-chopped **parsley and chives** and a pinch of **salt and pepper** with 250g soft **butter**. Spread this generously into every groove of the sliced loaf. Hollow out the centre portion, as shown, then place the loaves, with the blocks of bread you removed alongside, on a baking tray. Place a **Camembert cheese** in each cavity, drizzle a little **olive oil** over and bake the loaves in a preheated oven at 180°C for about 25 minutes or until the cheese softens and the crust of the bread turns crispy. Cut open the oozy cheese and dip the bread blocks in it before it gets cold.

Butter-fried cauliflower

A whole cauliflower on a platter is an impressive side dish with any meal. If you're in a hurry, cut it into quarters to reduce the cooking time.

Makes 1 whole cauliflower • Preparation time: 20 minutes
Cooking time: about 25 minutes

- **1 large cauliflower**
- **125ml butter**
- **12ml olive oil**
- **3 sage leaves**
- **2 bay leaves**
- **nutmeg**
- **Parmesan shavings**
- **a sprinkling of toasted pine nuts**

Steam the cauliflower whole for about 10 minutes (a little less if it's a smaller cauliflower; remember it will still be fried) until just cooked. Melt the butter and olive oil in a pan and add the sage and bay leaves. Fry the cauliflower until golden brown, basting all over with the butter.
Place on a pretty serving platter and sprinkle with nutmeg, salt and pepper, followed by a generous handful of Parmesan shavings and pine nuts. Delicious! >>

Roasted popper potatoes

What could be better than a crispy, golden brown potato straight out of the oven? Wait until you taste these...

Makes 12 potatoes
Preparation time: 30 minutes
Cooking time: 1 hour
Oven temperature: 200°C

- **12 medium-sized pickled red jalapeño chillies**
- **about 60ml full-fat cream cheese**
- **6 rashers of streaky bacon, halved**
- **12 large Mediterranean potatoes**
- **about 45ml olive oil**
- **30ml butter**
- **sea salt flakes**

1 Preheat the oven. Cut a slit in each of the jalapeños and remove any seeds; pat dry with paper towels. Spoon a little cream cheese into each chilli and wrap a strip of bacon around each one. Place the chillies on a baking tray and roast for about 15 minutes until the bacon is cooked but before the cheese starts to ooze out.
2 Boil the potatoes in salted water for about 15 minutes until just soft. Drain and allow to cool slightly. Using an apple corer or the tip of your vegetable peeler, carefully make a hollow in each potato – make sure it's big enough to accommodate a chilli popper.
3 Carefully insert a cooked popper into each hollow and, if you prefer, close the top of the potato with the removed flesh. Arrange the potatoes snugly next to each other in a roasting pan; drizzle with olive oil and dot with butter. Season with sea salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper and bake until golden brown and crispy (about 40 minutes). Turn over once, halfway through the baking time.

Bacon and chicken pie

Instead of a pastry topping, this pie has woven strips of bacon – and whole eggs inside! It makes for a delicious breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner.

Makes 1 impressive pie
Preparation time: 45 minutes
Cooking time: 1 hour
Oven temperature: 200°C

- **1.2kg chicken pieces (at least 2 breasts)**
- **15ml oil**
- **2 medium-sized carrots, peeled and chopped**
- **2 stalks celery, chopped**
- **2 bay leaves**
- **500–750ml stock**
- **30ml butter**
- **250g mushrooms, wiped clean and chopped**
- **3 leeks, chopped**
- **30ml flour**
- **250ml cream**
- **400g spinach, blanched and chopped**
- **5ml lemon zest**
- **125ml chopped flat-leaf parsley**
- **a pinch of nutmeg**
- **400g puff pastry**
- **9 soft-boiled eggs, peeled**
- **400g streaky bacon**
- **about 15–30ml sweet chilli sauce (optional)**

1 Brown the chicken pieces in the oil. Place them in a pot with the carrots, celery, bay leaf and stock. Bring to the boil, then simmer gently for about 25 minutes until cooked. Drain (keep the stock), allow to cool slightly and flake the chicken. Discard the skin and bones.
2 Add the butter to the same pan in which the chicken was fried and sauté the mushrooms and leeks until cooked and aromatic. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and stir in the flour; cook for a minute. Whisk in the cream and 250ml of the reserved stock and simmer until thickened. Stir in the spinach, lemon zest, parsley and nutmeg and allow to cool. Stir in the chicken.
3 Preheat the oven. Line a deep, square baking pan (23cm) with the puff pastry (roll it slightly thinner if necessary). Place a sheet of baking paper on the pastry, sprinkle some dry beans on top and blind bake for about 25 minutes. Remove the baking paper and beans and bake for a few more minutes to get a crispy, golden brown crust.
4 Spoon the chicken filling into the pie casing and arrange the whole eggs in-between for an added surprise when you slice the pie. Now weave the streaky bacon tightly (*see photo*) and place it on top of the pie. Tuck it in around the edges of the filling, rather than cutting off the excess; the bacon top will shrink while the pie is cooking, so it must be slightly bigger to begin with.
5 Brush the sweet chilli sauce over the bacon and bake for about 25 minutes or until the bacon has browned and the pie is cooked through. Serve immediately.

Butternut and carrot salad

This recipe offers a new version of a trusted favourite – grated carrot salad.

Serves 6 as a side dish
Preparation time: 10 minutes

- **4 oranges**
- **200g butternut noodles**
- **4 medium carrots, cut into ribbons**
- **1 red onion, sliced into thin rings**
- **a handful of mixed coriander and mint leaves**
- **a few fresh pea shoots**
- **60g flaked almonds, toasted**

DRESSING

- **a pinch each of salt, sugar and cayenne pepper**
- **30ml red wine vinegar**
- **30ml toasted sesame oil**
- **15ml olive oil**

Remove the orange peels and cut the segments from between the membranes. Squeeze any juice from the remaining pulp into a measuring jug. Mix the dressing ingredients together and add the orange juice to taste. Combine the orange segments, butternut noodles, carrots, onion, herbs and pea shoots and mix in the sauce. Spoon onto a platter and sprinkle with nuts.

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com

Butternut and carrot salad

Tip Invest in a spiral slicer (go to **yuppiechef.com**) so you can make your own vegetable noodles.

Food is all about *gathering, sharing, tasting, indulging and enjoying*. All of which can happen around a Sunday roast or a simple bowl of olives.
– food stylist Michele Cranston

Malva pudding brownies

Deliciously decadent!

Makes 10–12 brownies
Preparation time: 10 minutes
Baking time: 1 hour
Oven temperature: 160 °C

- **4 extra-large eggs, at room temperature**
- **250ml (200g) sugar**
- **180ml (72g) cocoa**
- **125ml (70g) self-raising flour**
- **250g butter, melted**
- **60ml chopped pecans**

SAUCE

- **250ml cream**
- **180ml (144g) sugar**
- **100ml butter**
- **25ml Amarula (optional)**

1 Preheat the oven and line a long loaf tin (30 x 11cm) with baking paper. Whisk the eggs and sugar until light in colour and very thick and creamy. Sift the cocoa and flour together and fold it into the egg mixture, alternating with the butter and nuts. Pour into the prepared loaf tin and bake for 1 hour.

2 Make the sauce by heating all the ingredients together until the sugar has dissolved; cook for a few minutes.
3 Prick the pudding all over with a skewer as soon as it comes out of the oven then pour half of the sauce over; it should soak in nicely. Allow to cool to room temperature before turning it out. Then cut into slices and serve with the remaining sauce, ice cream and preserved guavas.

Find more issues at magazinesdownload.com



Custard tart

This recipe comes from one of my old scrapbooks – and it's as easy as pie!

Makes 4 x 12cm tartlets
Preparation time: 35 minutes
Cooking time: 20 minutes

- **about 400g crunchy biscuits, crushed**
- **about 125ml melted butter**
- **ice cream, to serve**

FILLING

- **150ml custard powder**
- **400ml milk**
- **1 tin condensed milk**
- **500ml water**
- **5ml vanilla essence**

BANANA TOPPING

- **125ml (100g) brown sugar**
- **30ml butter**
- **2–4 small bananas, halved and sprinkled with lemon juice**
- **15ml brandy**
- **60ml raisins, soaked in hot rooibos tea until soft**

1 Mix the biscuit crumbs with the butter and line the tartlet pans. Adjust the quantities if the consistency is too crumbly. Refrigerate until needed.

2 Make the filling Mix the custard powder with 50ml milk to form a smooth paste. Pour the condensed milk, water and remaining milk in a microwave-proof dish and heat in the microwave on high for 10 minutes or until it boils. Whisk in the custard mixture and vanilla, and heat for about 3 minutes until thick and creamy. Whisk well after each minute. Pour the custard into the prepared crusts and allow to cool before placing them in the refrigerator to set.

3 For the banana topping Melt the sugar in a small saucepan; shake the pan frequently to make sure all the sugar gets an equal amount of heat. Once it has dissolved and starts to caramelise, add the butter and bananas. Brown the flat sides of the bananas. Stir in the brandy and raisins, turning the bananas once. When the bananas are golden brown, spoon them onto the top of the tarts, along with raisins and extra caramel. Don't fry the bananas for too long; they mustn't become too mushy (they'll taste delicious but won't look as good). Serve with ice cream.

Barely there...

Try this unfussy icing technique to finish a not-quite-naked cake you'll be proud to share.

By **Johané Neilson** • *Photographs* **Francois Oberholster**

A "naked" cake refers to a layered cake that has no frosting or fondant around the outside, so its various layers can be clearly seen. We've chosen a happy medium where the cake layers 'peek through' and the whole effect is easy on the eye.

Hot milk sponge cake with rooibos and orange

Makes 1 three-layer cake • Preparation time: 40 minutes
Baking time: 25 minutes • Oven temperature: 180°C

- 420g (750ml) flour
- 22.5ml baking powder
- 6 eggs
- 330g (410ml) sugar
- 375ml milk
- 1 rooibos teabag
- 150g butter, melted
- 5ml orange blossom water
- 5ml orange zest

SYRUP
- 80ml boiling water
- 80ml (65g) castor sugar
- 15ml apricot jam or marmalade

FROSTING
- 200g butter, softened
- 200ml (105g) icing sugar
- 250g cream cheese
- 2ml vanilla essence

Tip

If the cake looks unstable, insert a kebab stick into the middle of the stack, vertically (cut off the top so it's not visible) – this will prevent the layers from sliding off each other.



1 Preheat the oven and line three 20cm cake tins with baking paper. Sift the flour and baking powder into a mixing bowl. Use a separate bowl to beat the eggs and sugar until very thick and light in colour.



2 Scald the milk and let the teabag draw until strong. Remove it and mix the milk with the melted butter, orange blossom water and zest. Fold the flour and milk mixtures into the egg mixture, alternately, until just combined. Retain as much air as possible.



3 Divide the batter between the three prepared cake tins. If you only have two, retain the third portion and bake it after the first two layers are done. Bake for about 25 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean. Allow to cool completely before turning out.





4 Make the syrup by dissolving all the syrup ingredients in a small saucepan over moderate heat; cook for a minute or two. Level off the cooled cake tops with a sharp knife, making sure they are all more or less the same thickness. (Check all the layers together at eye level to ensure they are even.) Brush the syrup over the cut tops – it keeps the cake moist and helps to reduce crumbs.



5 Prepare the frosting by whisking the butter and icing sugar together until light and fluffy, then quickly whisk in the cream cheese and vanilla essence. This will ensure that you don't overwork the cheese. Spread a layer of frosting onto each of the cake layers and stack them on top of each other.





6 Use a palette knife to coat the outside of the cake with icing. Start by scooping a large dollop of frosting onto the knife and "plastering" it on. Then scrape away any excess icing as you work your way around the cake, so the sponge shows through in places. The beauty of this technique is that it doesn't have to look too polished. **7** Carefully place the cake on a pretty board or cake stand and decorate the top generously with toppings to suit the flavour of the cake. We used Clemengold preserve, gooseberries, chocolate chips, candied orange peel and caramel hazelnuts, as well as lemon leaves and edible flowers brushed with edible gold.

We've got supper sorted!

Four easy meals for chilly autumn evenings.

By **Johané Neilson**
Photographs **Francois Oberholster**



Stuffed butternut

Under R100 • Serves 4 • Preparation time: 35 minutes
Cooking time: 35 minutes

- 2 small butternuts, halved and seeded
- 8 pork bangers
- 15ml oil
- 125ml long-grain rice
- 10 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 250ml chakalaka
- about 125ml boiling water
- 1 feta round, crumbled
- 80ml grated mozzarella cheese

1 Using a sharp knife, make incisions in the butternut flesh without cutting through the skin. Place the butternuts in a microwave-safe bowl with a little boiling water, cover and steam on high for 8–10 minutes or until just soft.
2 Remove the skin of the sausages and roll the meat into little balls; shallow-fry them in the oil until golden brown. Add the rice and tomatoes, stirring until all the grains are coated with oil. Add the chakalaka and boiling water and simmer until the rice is cooked.
3 Remove some of the cooked flesh from the butternut (leave a 1cm edge) and stir this into the rice mixture. Season to taste with salt and fill the butternut halves with the mixture. Top with the cheese and grill in the oven until it melts; garnish with basil leaves if desired.

Beef and lentil soup

Under R90 • Serves 6 • Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 35 minutes

- 15ml oil
- 500g mince
- meat spice
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely chopped
- 1 jalapeño chilli, chopped
- 2L vegetable stock
- 1 large (about 450g) sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 tin lentils, rinsed and drained
- 80g baby spinach

1 Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the mince until well browned. Season with the meat spice and add the onion, carrot and chilli. Fry until the vegetables are glossy, add 1.5L of the stock and simmer for 30 minutes.
2 Cook the sweet potato, lentils and remaining stock in a separate saucepan until soft. Mash with a potato masher and stir into the soup to thicken it. Finally, stir in the spinach and cook until just wilted; check the seasoning and serve piping hot.

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Creamy chicken casserole

Under R120 • Serves 4–6 • Preparation time: 25 minutes
Cooking time: 45 minutes

- 4 leeks, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 200g mushrooms, chopped
- 15ml each oil and butter
- 600–700g chicken fillets (we used filleted thighs), cut into big chunks
- 30ml flour
- 125ml stock
- 125ml cream
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 250ml frozen peas
- a few sprigs of thyme

1 Stir-fry the leeks, carrots and mushrooms in the oil and butter until glossy. Roll the chicken in the flour and fry until golden brown. Stir in the stock, cream and sweet potato and simmer until the chicken and sweet potato are cooked (about 30 minutes).
2 Stir in the peas and thyme, and steam for 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve with rice.

Use *filleted thighs or drumsticks for this recipe.* Breast fillets tend to dry out when cooked for too long.



Red pesto pasta with tuna

Under R90 • Makes 4 generous servings
Preparation time: 30 minutes • Cooking time: 10 minutes

- 2–3 red peppers
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 red chilli (or to taste), chopped
- 4 soft sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- about 100ml olive oil
- 300g linguine
- 100g black olives, pitted and coarsely chopped
- 340g tinned tuna, drained
- pecorino cheese
- fresh basil or parsley

1 Roast the peppers over a flame until charred all over and place them in a plastic bag for a few minutes to 'sweat'. Rub off the skins, remove the seeds and blend in a food processor with the garlic, chilli, tomatoes and olive oil.
2 Bring a pot of salted water to the boil and cook the pasta until al dente. Heat a pan and gently fry the red pepper paste for a minute until aromatic. Scoop the cooked linguine out of the water and add it to the pepper paste; stir through. Add the olives, tuna and pecorino cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with a sprinkling of fresh herbs.

In association with Huletts

3 tangy basting sauces

With these easy, sweet 'n spicy recipes, you can give Mom the night off and prepare dinner!



1 SYRUPY BALSAMIC GLAZE

Roast vegetable salad



2 LIME AND CORIANDER DRESSING

Spicy prawn noodles

SYRUPY BALSAMIC GLAZE *Makes about 125ml*

- 250ml balsamic vinegar
- 125ml Huletts Treacle Sugar
- 10ml Huletts Molasses
- 2 sprigs of thyme
- generous pinch of sea salt flakes

Mix all the glaze ingredients, except the salt, together in a small saucepan and stir over medium heat until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil until the glaze has reduced and is syrupy and glossy. Keep a watchful eye on the glaze to ensure that it doesn't boil over. Remove the glaze from the heat once reduced, season with salt and allow to cool.

SERVING SUGGESTION Drizzle the glaze over oven-roasted **butternut, tomato** and **feta** and serve on a bed of **couscous** tossed with cooked **chickpeas** and a generous sprinkling of **micro herbs**.

LIME AND CORIANDER DRESSING *Makes about 125ml*

- 60ml Huletts Treacle Sugar
- juice of 2 limes
- 2 jalapeño chillies, deseeded and finely chopped
- 60ml soy sauce
- 30ml roasted sesame oil
- 15ml fish sauce
- 250ml fresh coriander, chopped
- 3 spring onions, finely chopped

Mix the Huletts Treacle Sugar and lime juice together and microwave for a couple of seconds to dissolve the sugar. Add the rest of the ingredients and stir to combine.

SERVING SUGGESTION Marinate 1kg of **butterflied, deveined prawns** in half the dressing for 15 minutes. Grill, pan-fry or braai the prawns until pink and fragrant. Serve with the rest of the lime and coriander dressing on a bed of **noodles** and your favourite **stir-fried vegetables** for a decadent zesty feast.

Bright idea!

Tie a bunch of oreganum, thyme or rosemary together and use it as a basting brush for applying the sauce.



Mixed grill

3 **BARBECUE SAUCE**

BARBECUE SAUCE
Makes about 250ml

- **15ml olive oil**
- **1 onion, finely chopped**
- **1 red chilli, deseeded and chopped**
- **1–2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped**
- **15ml mustard seeds**
- **1 bay leaf**
- **160ml Huletts Treacle Sugar**
- **15ml Huletts Molasses**
- **125ml water, boiling**
- **60ml apple cider vinegar**
- **60ml tomato sauce**
- **salt and freshly ground pepper to taste**

Heat the oil in a small saucepan and fry the onion, chilli, garlic and mustard seeds together until the onion is soft. Add the remaining ingredients and stir over medium heat until all the sugar has dissolved. Boil the mixture until thick and glossy then allow to cool.

SERVING SUGGESTION This delicious sauce is perfect on **bacon-wrapped chicken** skewers as a sticky finish when braaiing; also, use it to add gloss and extra flavour to **pan-fried sausages** or drizzle over grilled **vegetable sosaties.** Yum!





Great for adding rich colour and flavour!

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food & drinks

Sample, sip and savour...

By Johané Neilson • Photographs: supplied



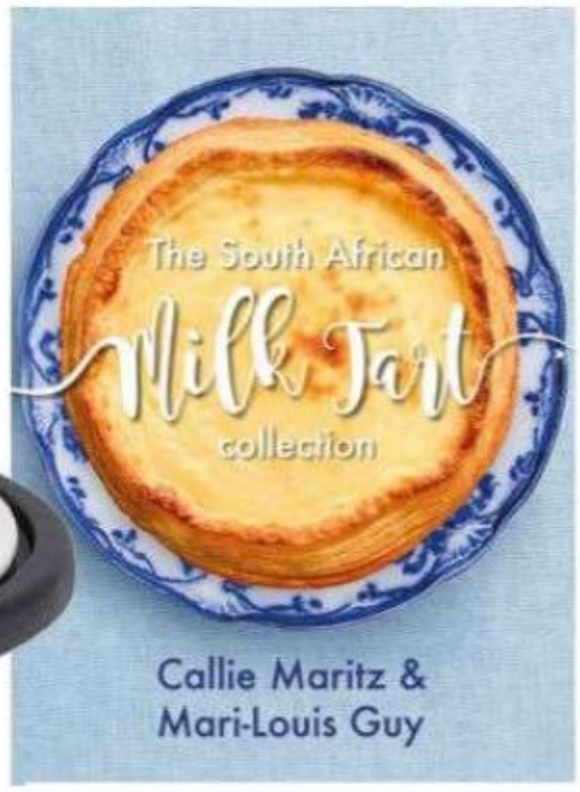
Hot 'n steamy

Check out the stunning Moroccan-inspired design of this limited edition Spice Tagine from Le Creuset (31cm; R4 200); its distinctive cone-shaped lid promotes natural steam circulation, keeping ingredients tender and moist. Go to **lecreuset.co.za**.



Mix it up

We love the We Care range of snack mixes by Montagu Dried Fruit and Nuts (from R149 for 500g) for energy on the go, in yoghurt, as salad sprinkles or in baked goods. Visit **montagudriedfruitnuts.co.za**.



In a proud tradition

Baked or unbaked, traditional or with a twist, *The South African Milk Tart Collection* (R280; Human & Rousseau) by well-known foodies Mari-Louis Guy and Callie Maritz shows off this heritage favourite like never before!



Grey matter

Ombre cutlery (4-pack) R450, Woolworths



Cheers!

The Glenelly Glass Collection Chardonnay 2015 (R85; glenellyestate.com) is unoaked and naturally fermented with a bright colour and slight green hue. It shows complex aromas of citrus, papaya, melon and pear.

Did you know?

Friday 26 May is International Chardonnay Day!



Crisp & refreshing

The Backsberg 2016 Chardonnay (R74; **backsberg.co.za**) is fresh with classic Chardonnay notes of pear, citrus and nuts; drink now or mature for up to 10 years.





It's beer o'clock!

Stanley Beer Yard at 44 Stanley in Milpark, Jo'burg offers a relaxed and friendly ambience in which to enjoy a huge variety of local and craft beers, boutique wines and artisanal drinks. Add a flavoursome menu and great music (live on Saturdays; vinyl evenings on Thursdays and Fridays) and you've got a winning combination! Stanley Beer Yard also hosts SA's biggest vinyl market from 10:00–15:00 on the first Sunday of every month. For details, call 011 482 5791.

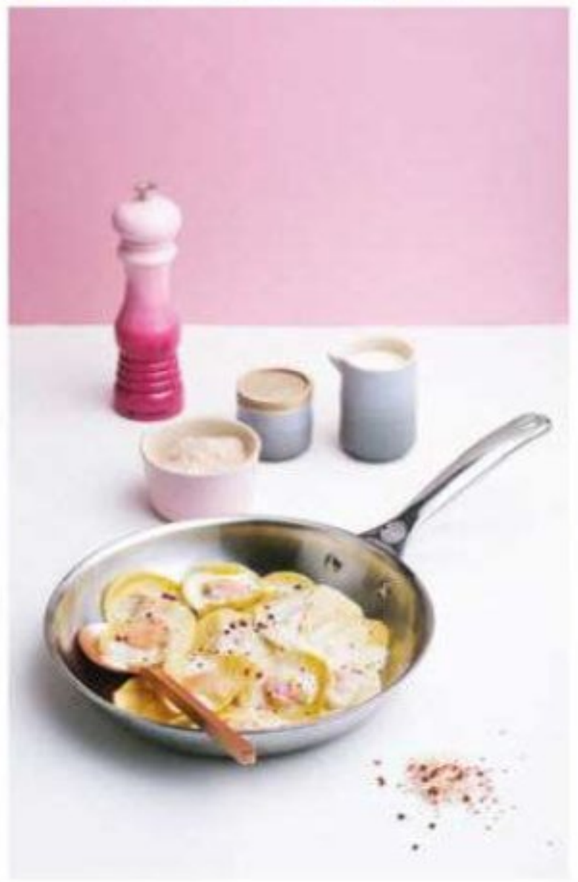




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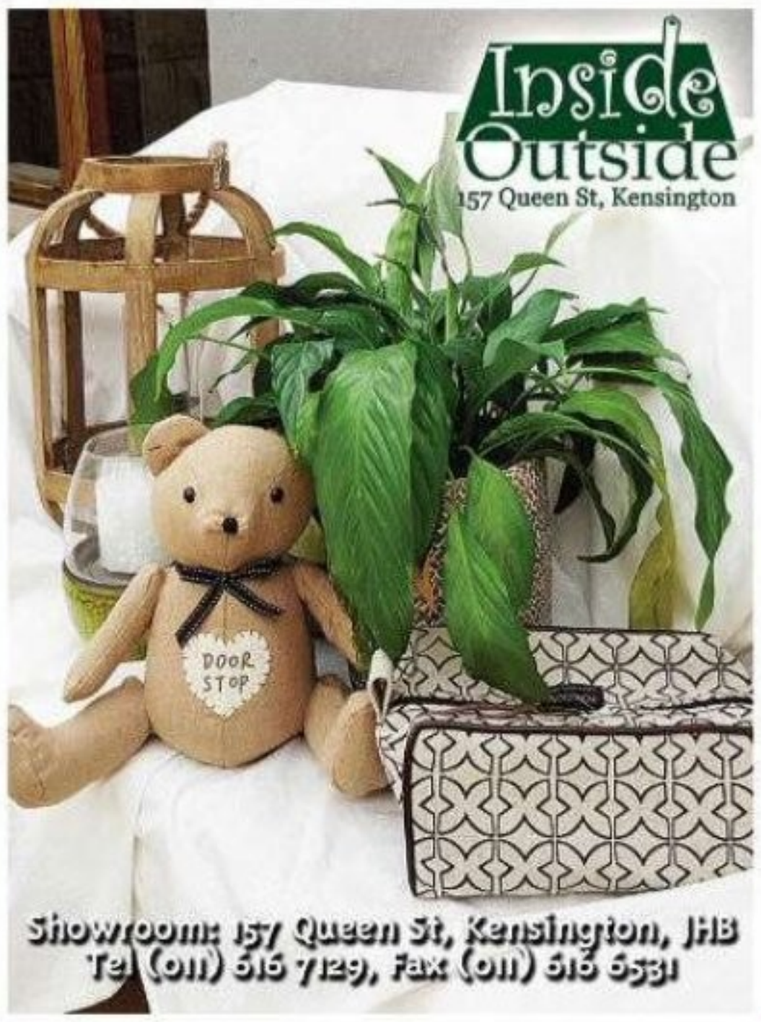
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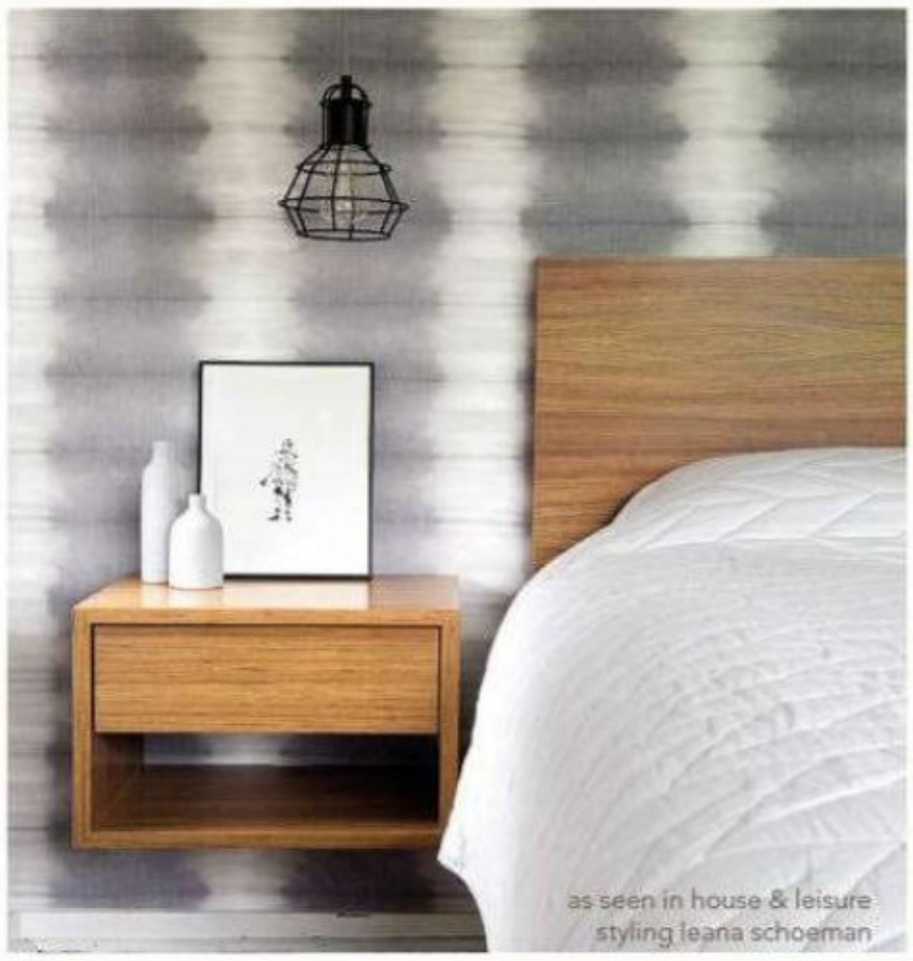
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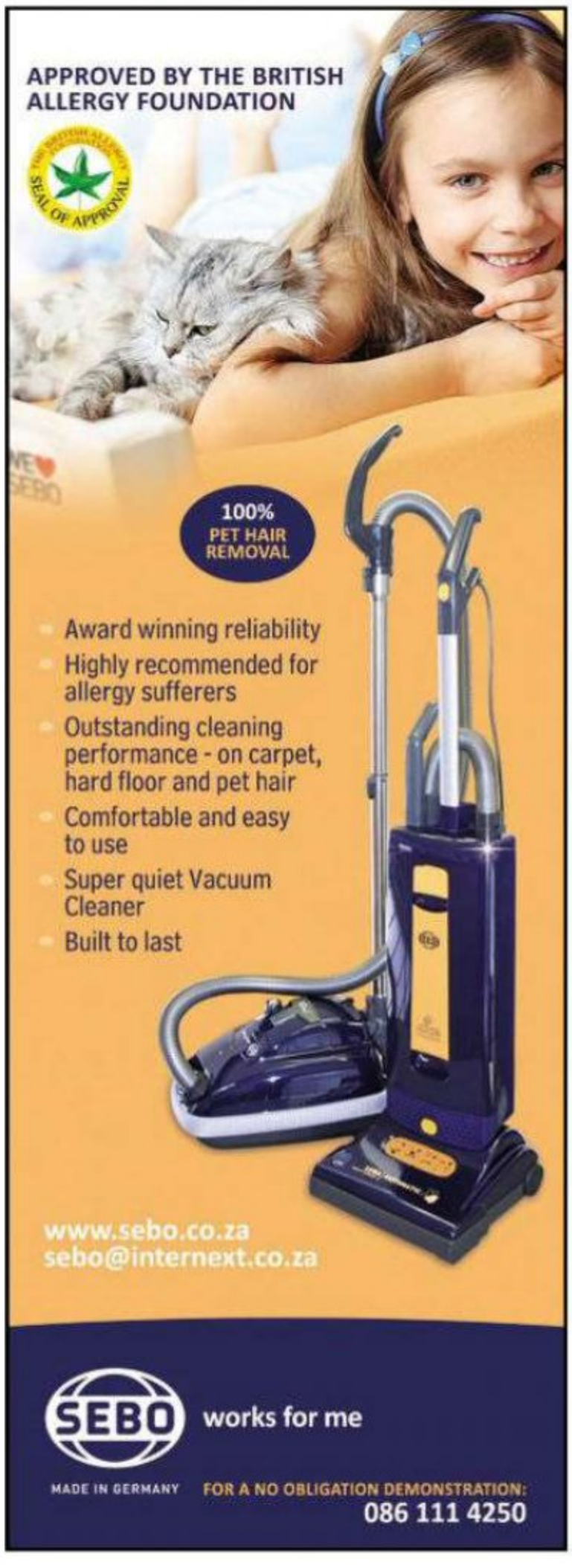
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Solution to Crossword #100

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In June... we hit the road in search of inspiration



READER HOMES

Clever renovation
A 70s-style house gets a budget-savvy revamp

Take a break
We escape to the Boland, Ladismith and Caledon



DIY Make this quirky laundry bag in 10 easy steps



FOOD
T-bone steak, lamb chops, gin-soaked chicken – all roasted on the bone!



GARDENS

- A Grabouw garden in perfect harmony with its home
- Top tips on how to grow succulent *Echeveria*
- How to create a gorgeous garden path

Next month in **home** On sale 15 May 2017



A tale of the Tankwa

Riana Scheepers and a friend in need of quiet meditation find the joy in breaking bread together.

Illustrations by Paula Dubois • *Translated by* Gillian Eva

I have a British friend who visits me; a jewellery designer who makes the most exquisite adornments. People from all over the world covet her jewellery pieces and pay astronomical prices for them. My friend is beautiful, eccentric – and poor, because she donates all her money to organisations involved in the rehabilitation of traumatised animals. My friend is amazing.

It goes without saying that she's a vegetarian.

I don't have a problem with making food for my vegetarian friends because I also thrive on salad and vegetables.

But my exotic, vegetarian friend has another unique characteristic: she doesn't really eat salad. A vegetarian who doesn't eat salad? She knows her own body, she says. She knows what's good for her.

There's something else Jasmine doesn't like very much. She can't bear the bustle of hordes of people. She lives in London and always has people around her. The place she'd really like to be is somewhere in a vast, pristine, wild landscape where the nearest people are a hundred kilometres away. She'd like to sit on a rock and meditate. She'd like to watch beetles scurrying through the veld, making little braid-like tracks in the sand behind them. She'd like to watch a sunbird sipping nectar from the cup of a *plakkie* bloom. And, she says, if she manages to one day see a baby giraffe, she might actually just die.

Come, I told my friend with her halo of wild black hair, I know exactly where you need to be.

I took her to the Tankwa Karoo.

She could not believe such a place existed.

She climbed to the top of the highest hill and sat, eyes shut, on a rock for hours. She couldn't get enough of the copper hues of the Tankwa's winter sun, the fresh air, the ozone, the rough stones and the Vast Nothingness. She went in search of little veld creatures and followed their braid-like tracks for kilometres. She saw sunbirds sipping nectar from aloe cups. She saw baby springbok and a newborn gemsbok but, alas, no baby giraffes were to be seen with the farm's four adult giraffes.

She thought she was in heaven, and she was.

While Jasmine sat on her rock, I prepared our meals. She had brinjal and lentils, broccoli with olives and basil. One night, she ate an entire bowl of pumpkin fritters; I watched with delight as she savoured them all. I cooked creamed tomatoes and cut courgette ribbons, drizzled with lemon. I roasted sweet potato on the coals. For dessert, she had farm cheese and green figs with chunks of wild melon preserve. She loved it all, devouring every morsel I put before her.

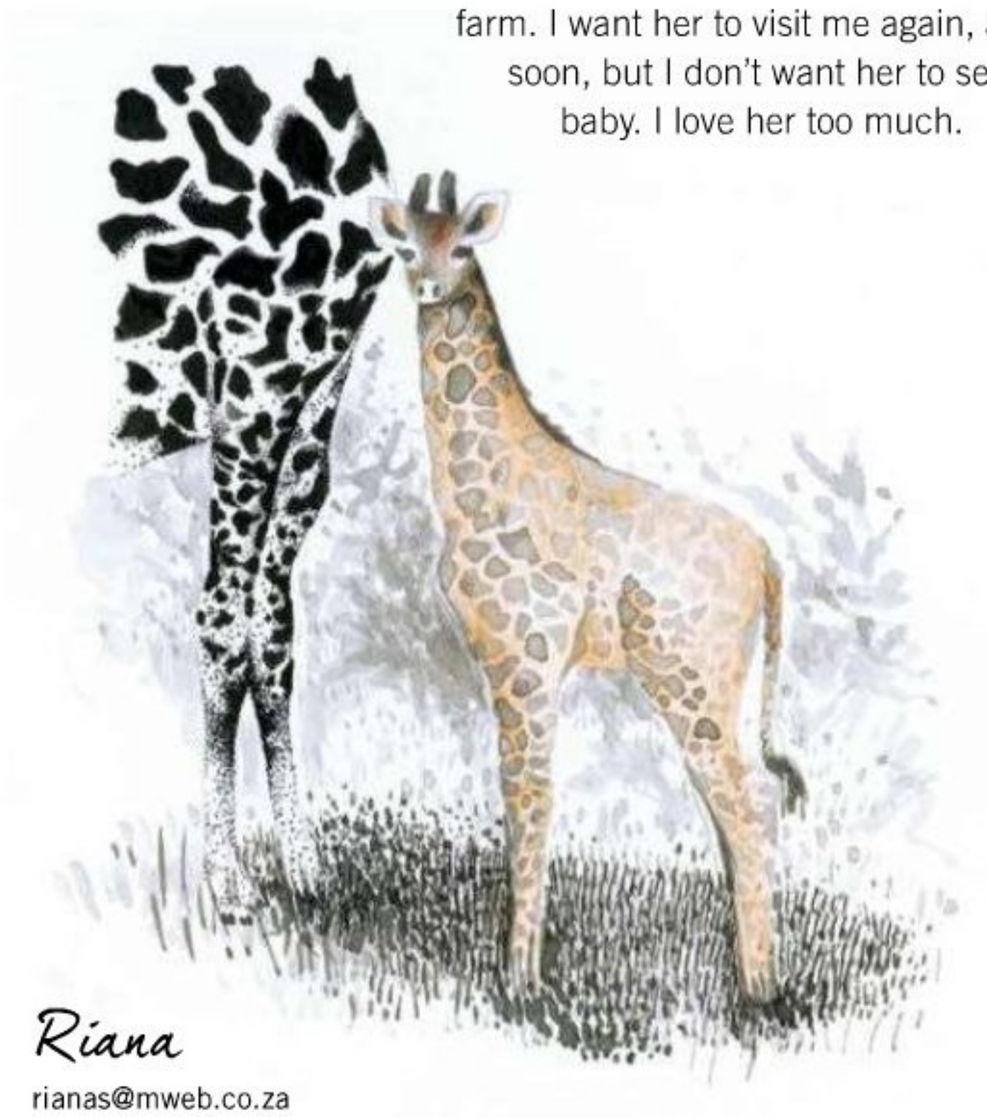
Jasmine won't eat salad but there's something she just couldn't get enough of: my homemade bread. Every day, I baked her a different kind of bread. One day, I made pot bread baked in a black cast-iron pot over a slow fire. I turned the loaf out onto a weathered wooden board and spread the thick slices with farm butter which melted into the bread. My London friend thought she'd been transported to the Middle Ages, but solemnly declared that her Queen, even with all her money, would not be able to afford this treat.

The following day I made her *roosterkoek* (griddle cakes) cooked on the coals. That set her off, rejoicing in many tongues. The next night it was a traditional *braaibroodjie*, homemade farm bread with cheese, tomato and onion. She couldn't stop giggling with delight. Lena, who lives on the farm, baked her an ash-loaf. Jasmine was unable to utter a word because she was too busy taking another bite.

On the last day of our stay in the Tankwa, the clouds started to roll in from the north-west. When the rain began to fall, I was as happy as a child receiving a gift. That night, I baked her *vetkoek*. I kneaded the flour, salt and yeast. The dough rose plumply under the tea towel. I lit the fire. While the rain gently soaked into the dry, dusty soil, I baked *vetkoek*, just like my grandmother did for us on rainy nights.

That night she uttered not a single word. Tears rolled down her cheeks.

Since Jasmine's last visit, a baby giraffe has been born on the farm. I want her to visit me again, and soon, but I don't want her to see the baby. I love her too much.



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